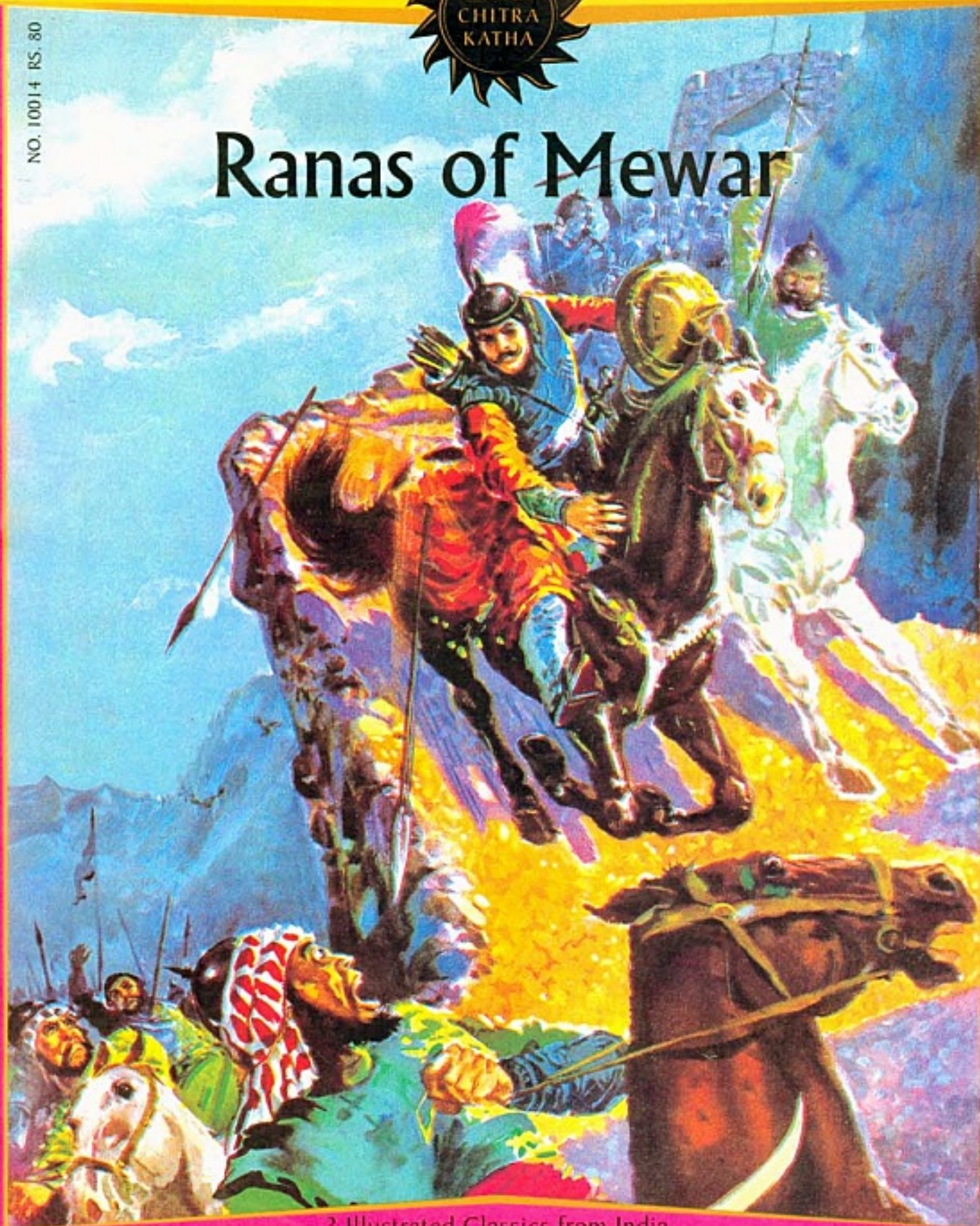


NO. 10014 RS. 80



Ranas of Mewar



3 Illustrated Classics from India
Rana Kumbha • Rana Pratap • Rana Sanga



Illustrated Classics From India

Rana Kumbha

Maharana Kumbha was a scion of the Sisodiya branch of the House of Hammir.

Kumbha ascended the throne of Mewar in 1433 after his father, Rana Mokal, was killed in a treacherous conspiracy. He ruled for thirty-five years, a period replete with campaigns. He never lost a battle even when confronted with the toughest adversaries. He built a numbers of formidable fortresses all over Rajasthan which proved to be of great strategic importance to later rulers of Mewar. The Tower of Victory he built in Chittor is one of the landmarks of Rajasthan.

Maharana Kumbha was not only a great sovereign and military commander but also a great scholar and musicologist. He wrote commentaries on the Gita-Govinda by Jayadeva and composed works like the 'Chandi Shataka' and 'Sangeet Ratnakar'.

Among the galaxy of Rajput sovereigns, Maharana Kumbha occupies a pre-eminent position. His natural abilities and achievements place him in the forefront of the great rulers not only of Mewar, but also of the whole of India.

The material for this Chitra Katha has been drawn from the famous book on the life of Kumbha by Harbilas Sarda.

Script: Jagjit Uppal Illustrations: H.S. Chavan & Dilip Kadam
Cover : Pratap Mulick

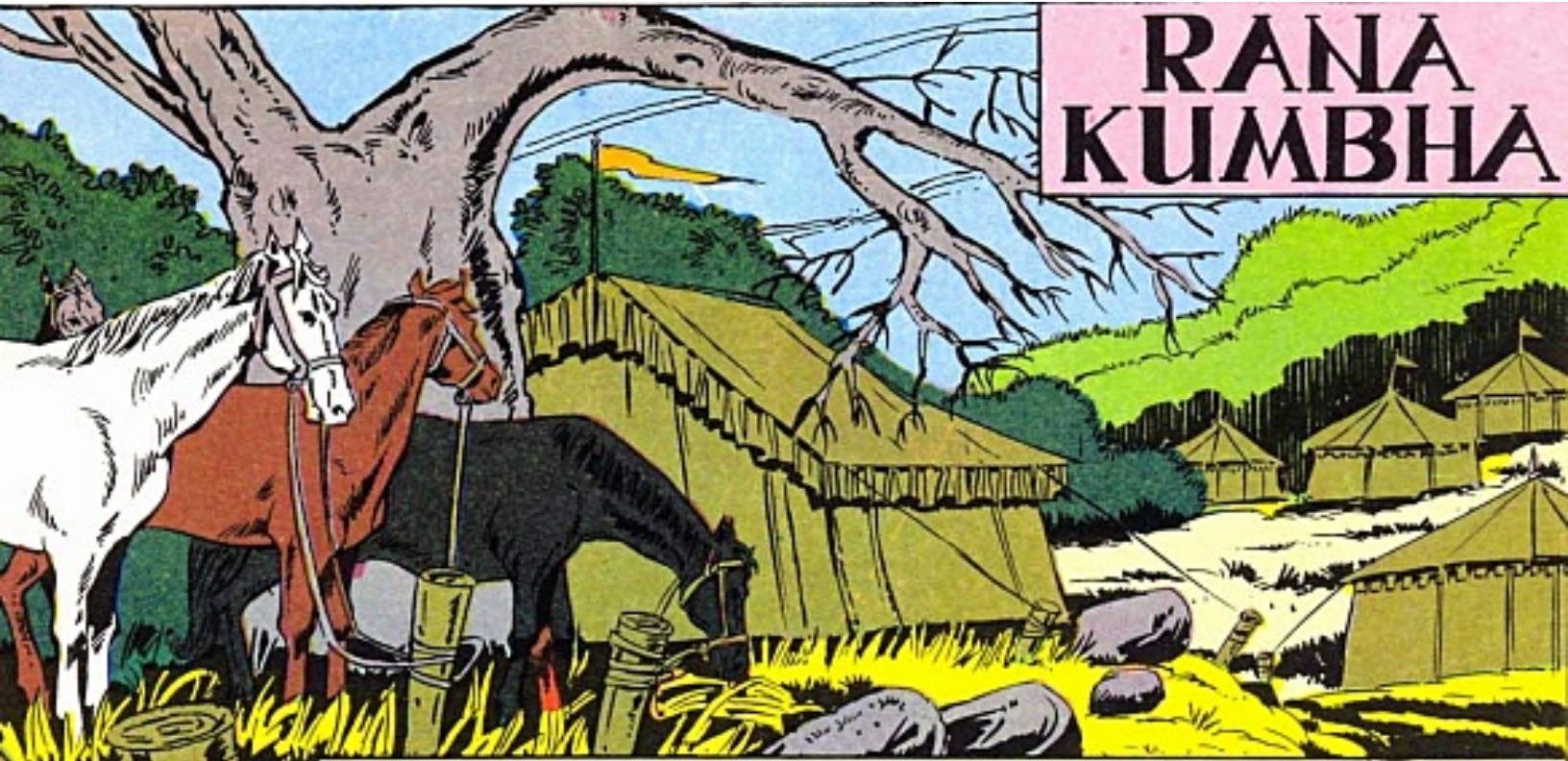
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RANA KUMBHA



MAHARANA MOKAL, THE RULER OF MEWAR, WAS CAMPING AT BAGOR (NEAR CHITTOR) WHILE ON A TOUR OF HIS KINGDOM. ONE QUIET AFTERNOON THE RANA WAS RESTING IN HIS TENT.

NOT FAR AWAY, TWO OF HIS OFFICERS, THE BROTHERS CHACHA AND MERA, WERE CONSPIRING WITH ANOTHER OFFICER, MAHPA, TO MURDER HIM.



MAHPA, THE RANA HAS INSULTED US. SOME TIME AGO, IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL THE CHIEFS, HE POINTED TO A TREE AND ASKED ME WHAT IT WAS CALLED.

HE WANTED TO REMIND US THAT OUR GRANDFATHER WAS A CARPENTER.



HE SHALL PAY WITH HIS LIFE.

WE SHALL AVENGE THIS INSULT.

YOU HAVE MY SUPPORT.

LOOKING FOR FURTHER SUPPORT, THE THREE MEN ASKED MALESI, THE RANA'S CHIEF GUARD, TO JOIN THEM. BUT THE LOYAL GUARD INFORMED THE RANA OF THE CONSPIRACY.



THE RANA DID NOT TAKE THE WARNING SERIOUSLY.



HE WAS WRONG. THE VERY NEXT DAY, THE CONSPIRATORS DECIDED TO STRIKE. AS THEY RODE TOWARDS THE RANA'S TENT IT WAS PRINCE KUMBHA WHO ALERTED THE RANA.



EVEN AS RANA MOKAL AND
THE OTHERS GOT READY...



...THE CONSPIRATORS
ENTERED THE TENT.



TRAITORS! IS
THIS HOW YOU
REPAY YOUR
BENEFACTOR!

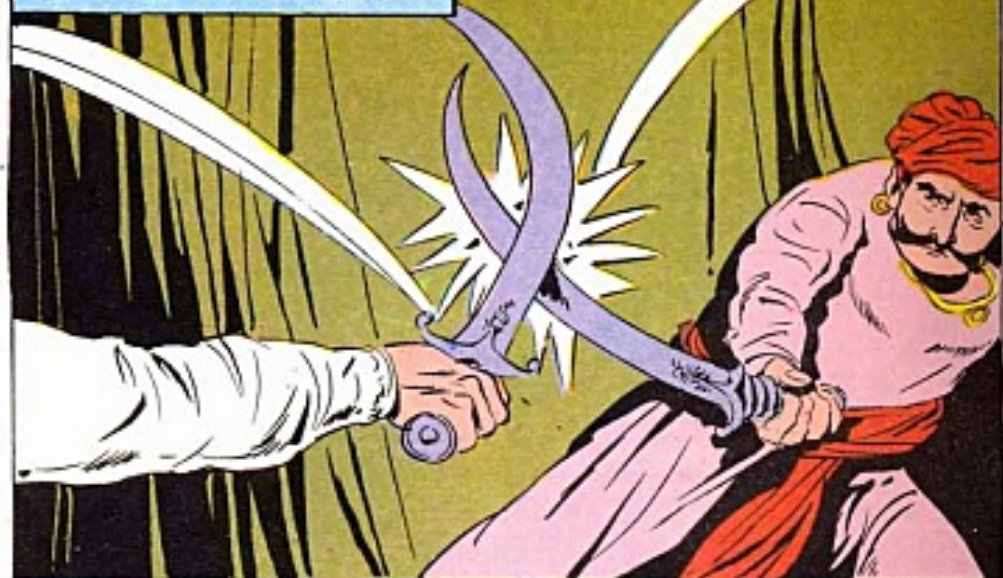


YOU INSULT
US IN PUBLIC
AND THEN CALL
YOURSELF OUR
BENEFACTOR! CHARGE,
MERA! GET TO WORK,
MAHPA!

THE RANA DREW HIS
SWORD AND ...



... HIS BLADE CLASHED WITH THOSE
OF THE TRAITORS.



RANI HADI* BRAVELY ENTERED THE FRAY.

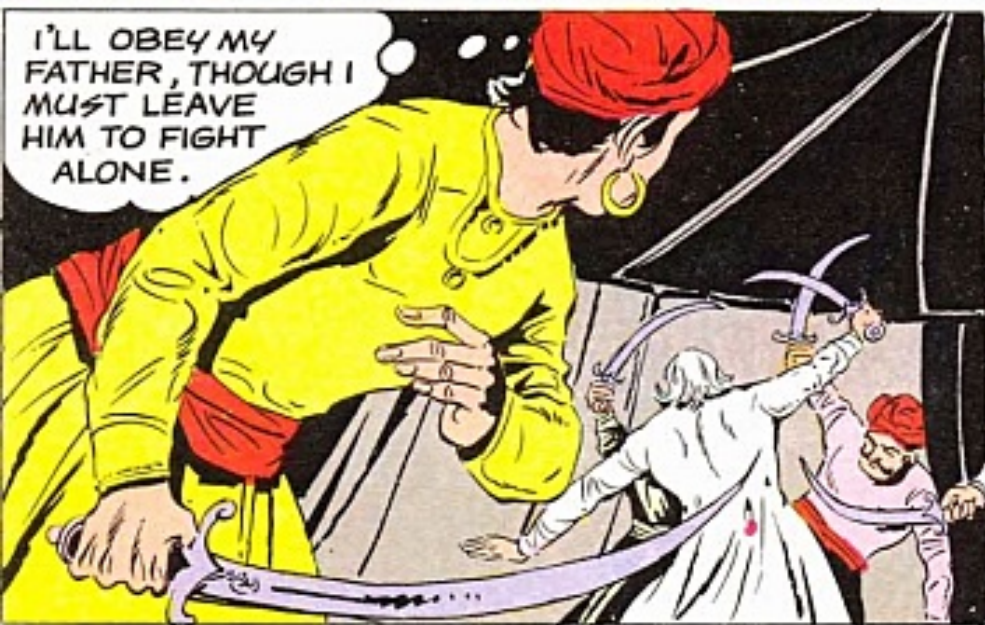


BUT THE RUTHLESS CONSPIRATORS SHOWED HER NO MERCY. WHEN
SHE FELL, THE RANA CRIED OUT TO HIS YOUNG SON —



* KUMBHA'S STEP-MOTHER

AS MORE MEN ENTERED THE TENT —



INSIDE THE TENT —

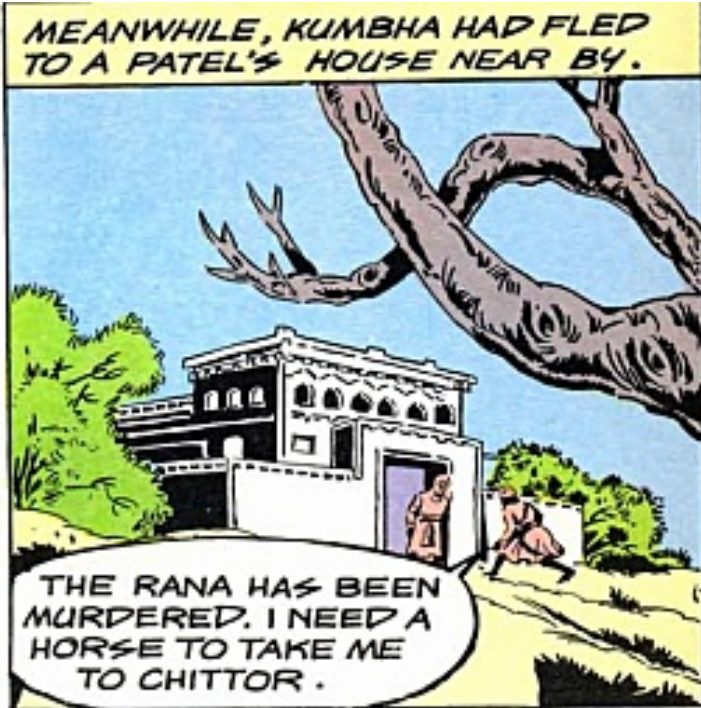
THE RANA IS DEAD. BUT
HIS SON STILL LIVES.

WE'LL
GO
AFTER
HIM.



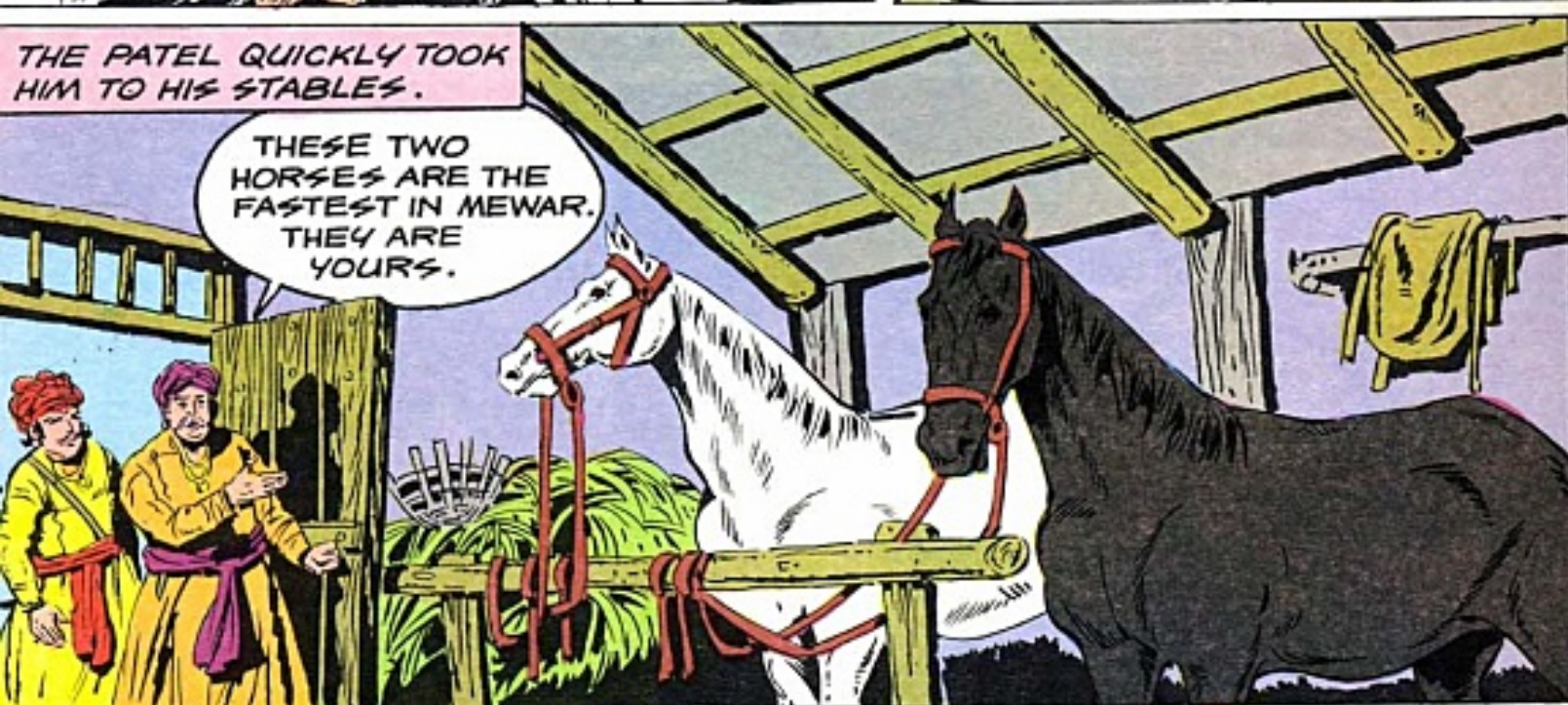
MEANWHILE, KUMBHA HAD FLED
TO A PATEL'S HOUSE NEAR BY.

THE RANA HAS BEEN
MURDERED. I NEED A
HORSE TO TAKE ME
TO CHITTOR.



THE PATEL QUICKLY TOOK
HIM TO HIS STABLES.

THESE TWO
HORSES ARE THE
FASTEST IN MEWAR.
THEY ARE
YOURS.



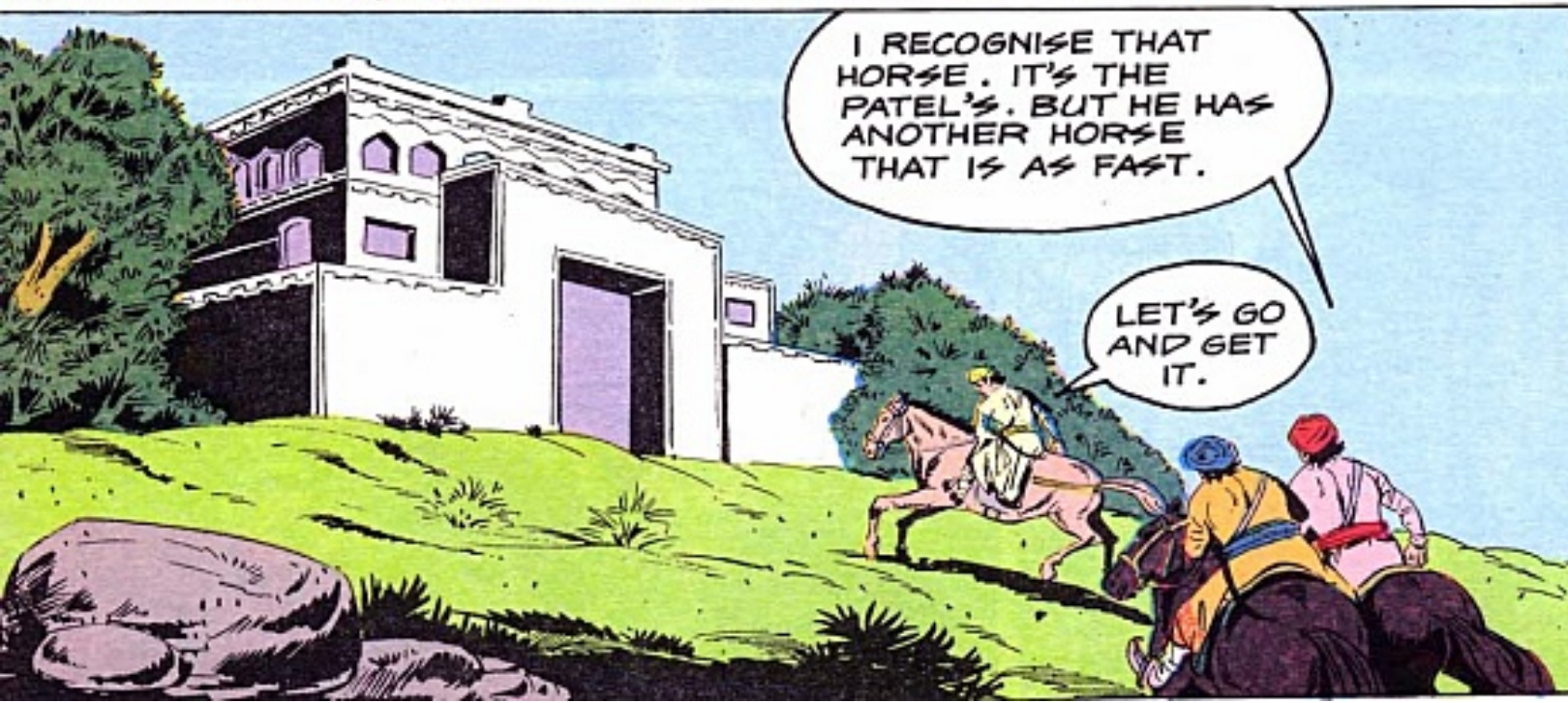
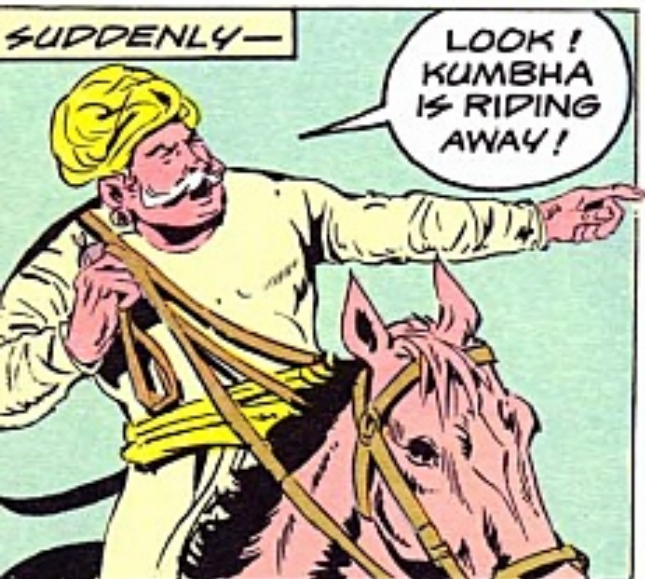
I WILL TAKE ONE,
BUT FIRST I MUST
MAKE SURE THAT
NO ONE TAKES
THE OTHER HORSE
TO COME AFTER
ME.



MEANWHILE THE CONSPIRATORS WERE HOT ON THE TRAIL OF KUMBHA.

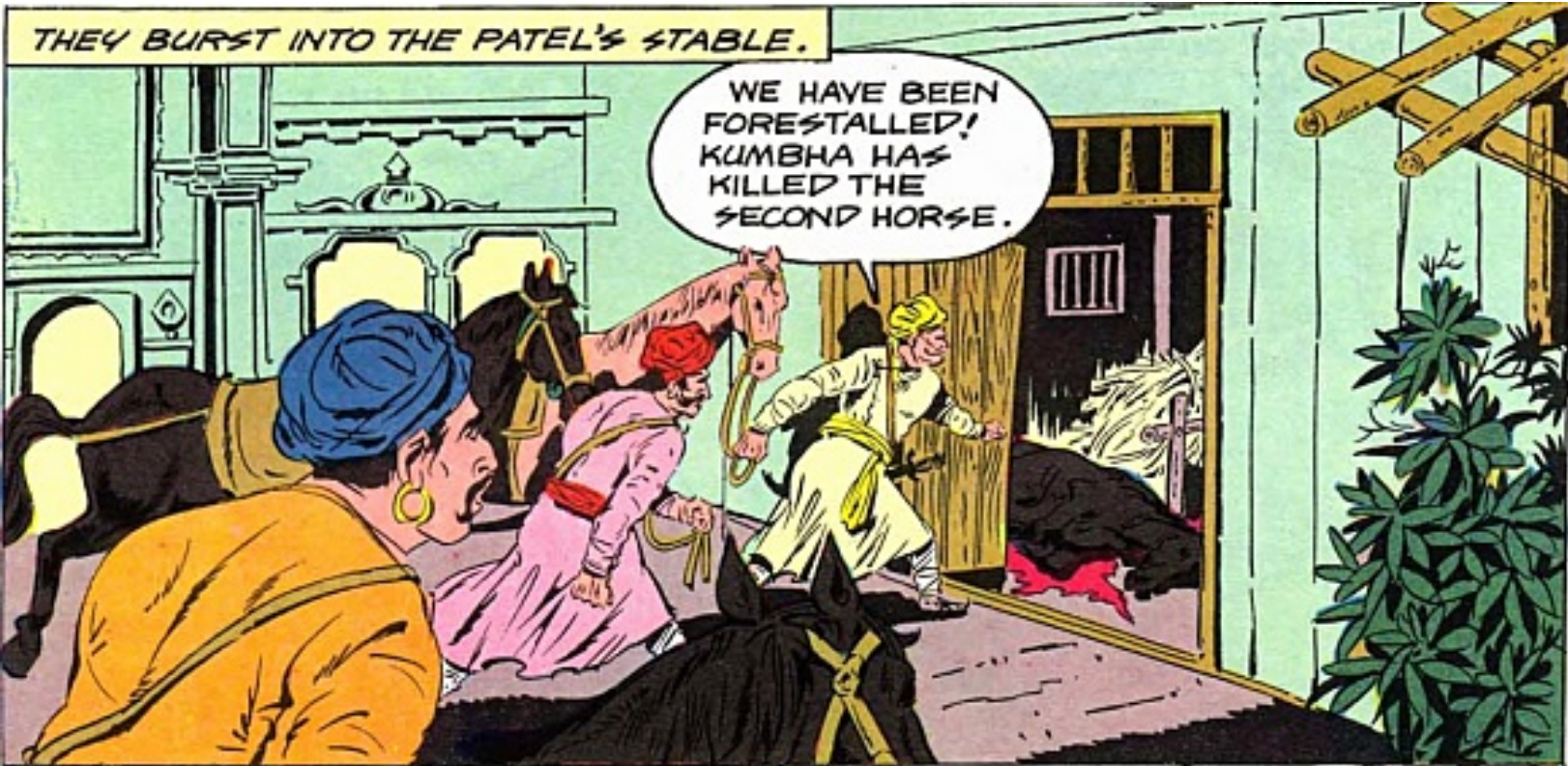


SUDDENLY—



THEY BURST INTO THE PATEL'S STABLE.

WE HAVE BEEN
FORESTALLED!
KUMBHA HAS
KILLED THE
SECOND HORSE.



COME, LET'S NOT WASTE
ANY TIME. WE MUST CAP-
TURE KUMBHA BEFORE
HE REACHES CHITTOR.



BUT KUMBHA HAD ALREADY
REACHED CHITTOR.



CLOSE
THE GATES!
BE QUICK!





WE ARE TOO LATE ! KUMBHA HAS ESCAPED.

NEVER MIND. WE'LL GET HIM SOME OTHER TIME.

LATER, KUMBHA WAS CROWNED RANA OF CHITTOR.



AFTER THE CORONATION, KUMBHA CONFERRED WITH HIS GRANDMOTHER, HANSA BAI.

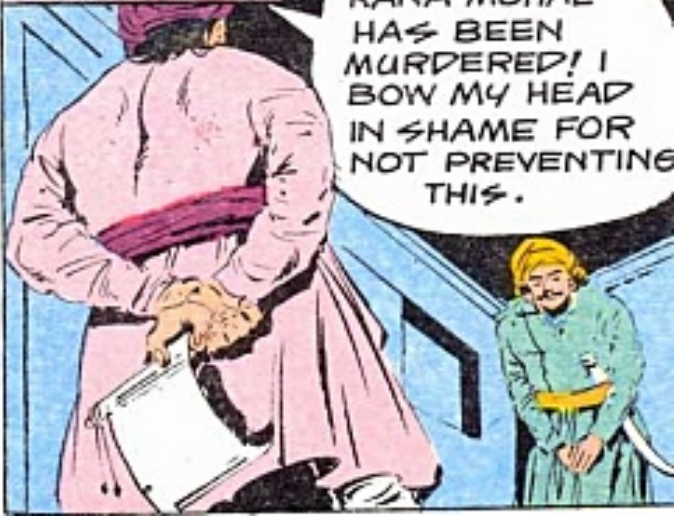
MAHPA, CHACHA AND MERA ARE STILL AT LARGE. I MUST PURSUE THEM.

NO, KUMBHA ! DON'T LEAVE CHITTOR TILL YOU HAVE CONSOLIDATED YOUR POSITION. SEND WORD TO MY BROTHER WHO WILL CERTAINLY HELP YOU.



KUMBHA SENT AN ENVOY TO RAO RAN MAL, THE RATHOD KING OF MARWAR.

RANA MOKAL HAS BEEN MURDERED ! I BOW MY HEAD IN SHAME FOR NOT PREVENTING THIS.



HE TOOK OFF HIS TURBAN AND
THREW IT TO THE GROUND.



THEREAFTER, HE BEGAN
WEARING A PHENTA—A
SIMPLE HEAD-DRESS.

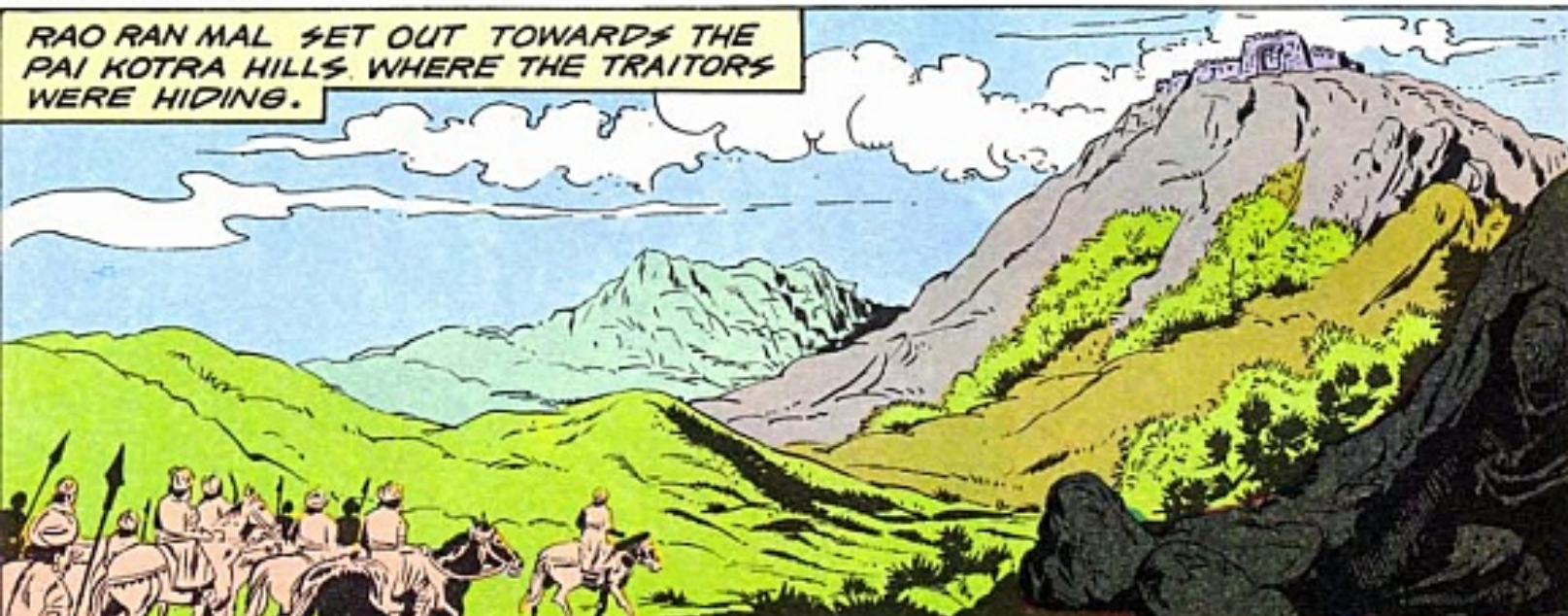
RAO RAN MAL THEN WENT TO CHITTOR.

THE TREACHEROUS
ASSAULT ON RANA
MOKAL BURNS MY
HEART...

... AND A
VOLCANO ERUPTS
IN EVERY FIBRE
OF MY BEING.



RAO RAN MAL SET OUT TOWARDS THE
PAI KOTRA HILLS WHERE THE TRAITORS
WERE HIDING.



WHEN HE REACHED THE FOOT OF THE HILLS,
HE ASKED THE BHILS, THE TRIBALS OF THE
AREA, FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRAITORS.



YOUR MAJESTY, IT IS
TRUE THEY ARE HIDING
IN THE FORT. BUT
WAIT FOR A FEW
DAYS. A LIONESS HAS
JUST GIVEN BIRTH TO A
CUB AND THE PATH
IS BLOCKED.

I CAN'T WAIT.
I MUST START
CLIMBING THE
HILL AT
ONCE.





RAN MAL'S SON JUMPED FORWARD...



... AND BEFORE THE
LIONESSE COULD ATTACK..



... HE BURIED HIS DAGGER
INTO HER HEART.



THE PARTY SOON REACHED THE SUMMIT. RAO RAN MAL'S SOLDIERS SCRAMBLED OVER THE PARAPET.



JUST THEN, THE DRUMMER ACCOMPANYING RAO RAN MAL'S ARMY SLIPPED AND...



... HIS DRUM FELL DOWN ...



... WITH A RE-SOUNDING CRASH.



INSIDE THE FORT, CHACHA'S DAUGHTER WOKE UP WITH A START.



FATHER! DID YOU HEAR THAT? PERHAPS KUMBHA'S MEN ARE HERE!

IT'S ONLY THE SOUND OF THUNDER! GO TO SLEEP, CHILD. KUMBHA'S MEN WON'T DARE TO CLIMB THIS STEEP HILL.

BUT SUDDENLY—

FATHER!



CHACHA WHIRLED ROUND.

RAO RAN MAL! YOU!



YES! I AM
HERE TO AVENGE
THE MURDER OF
RANA MOKAL.

AARGH!



AFTER KILLING CHACHA AND MERA, RAO RAN MAL WENT IN SEARCH OF MAHPA.

HE'S NOT
HERE. THE BIRD
HAS FLOWN.

THANK GOD! THEY
DON'T SUSPECT A
THING.

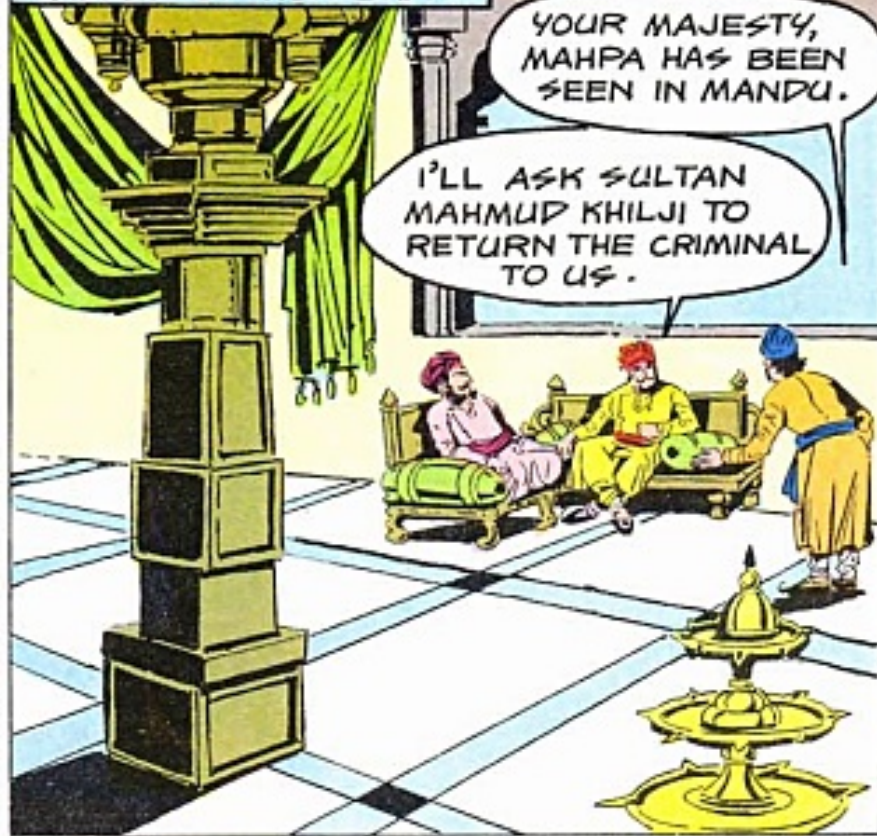


MAHPA ESCAPED IN THE
GUISE OF A WOMAN.

RAO RAN MAL RETURNED TO KUMBHA'S PALACE AT CHITTOR.



A FEW YEARS LATER A MESSENGER CALLED ON KUMBHA.



SOME TIME LATER, KUMBHA'S ENVOY RETURNED AFTER MEETING THE SULTAN.



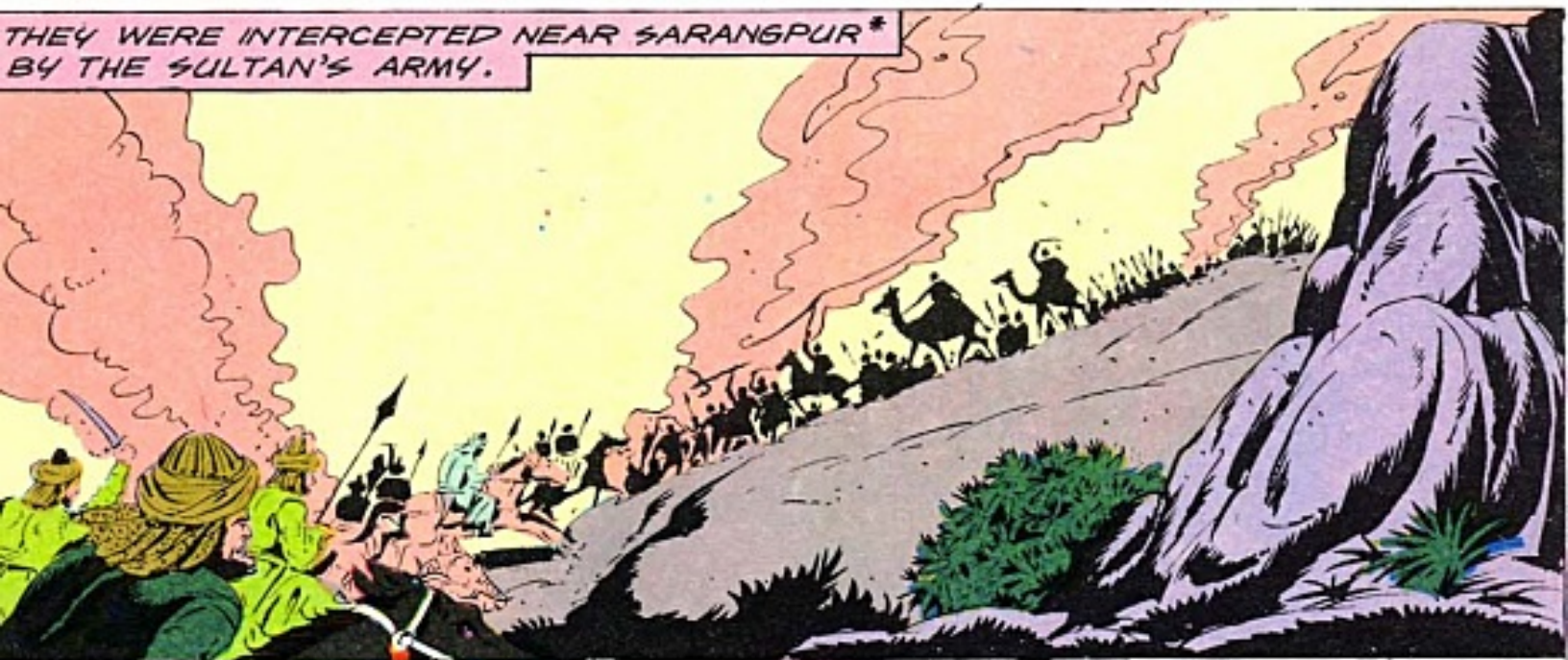
KUMBHA TURNED TO HIS UNCLE.



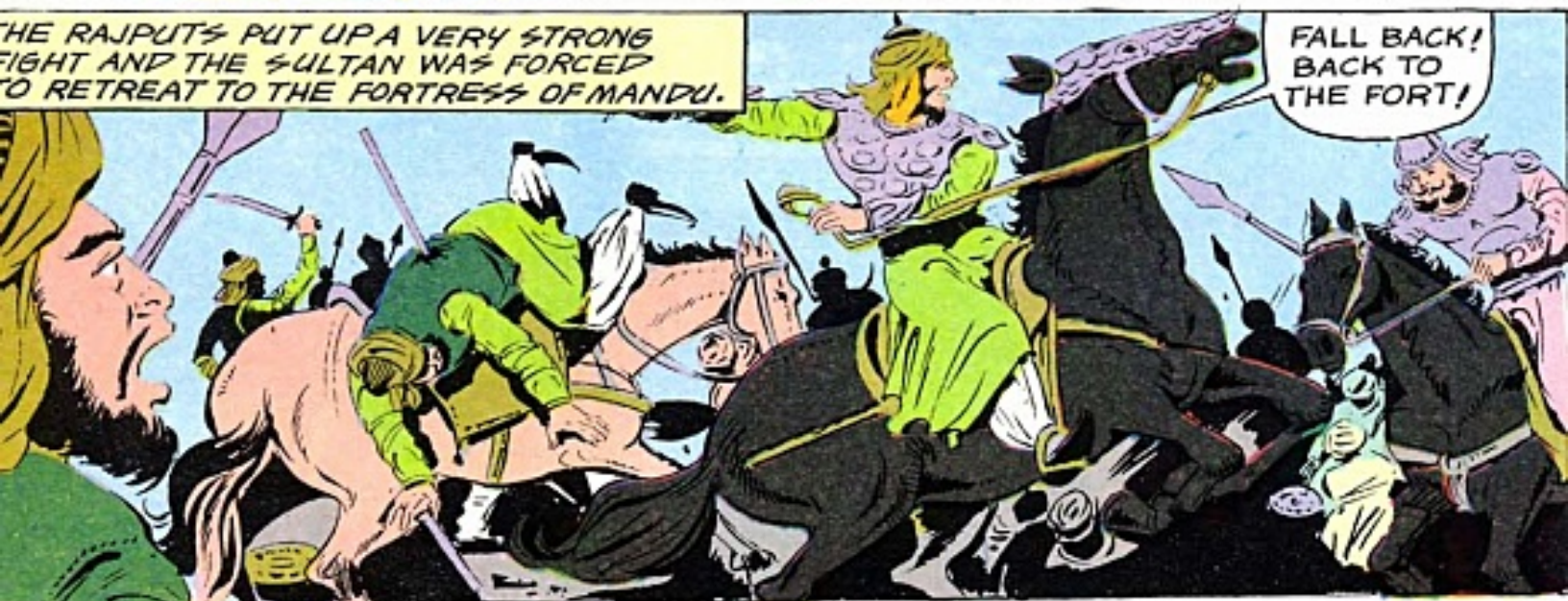
SO RANA KUMBHA AND RAN MAL
LEFT CHITTOR WITH THEIR FORCES.



THEY WERE INTERCEPTED NEAR SARANGPUR*
BY THE SULTAN'S ARMY.



THE RAJPUTS PUT UP A VERY STRONG
FIGHT AND THE SULTAN WAS FORCED
TO RETREAT TO THE FORTRESS OF MANDU.



FALL BACK!
BACK TO
THE FORT!

SITUATED BETWEEN CHITTOR AND MANDSAUR

RAJPUTS PURSUED THE RETREATING
SIEGE TO THE FORTRESS OF MANDU.

I WONDER
HOW LONG
THEY CAN
HOLD OUT.

I THINK
WE SHOULD
ATTACK
WITHOUT
DELAY.

MEANWHILE, SULTAN MAHMUD
HILJI SENT FOR MAHPA.

MAHPA, I CAN
NO LONGER GIVE
YOU SHELTER. GO
AND SEEK THE
RANA'S PARDON.

THE
RANA WILL
SHOW ME NO
MERCY. I'D
BETTER
ESCAPE.

HE RODE UP TO THE RAMPARTS OF THE
FORT...

I ONLY HOPE
I WILL NOT BE
SPOTTED BY
THE RAJPUTS.

... AND LEAPT OUT
ON HORSEBACK.



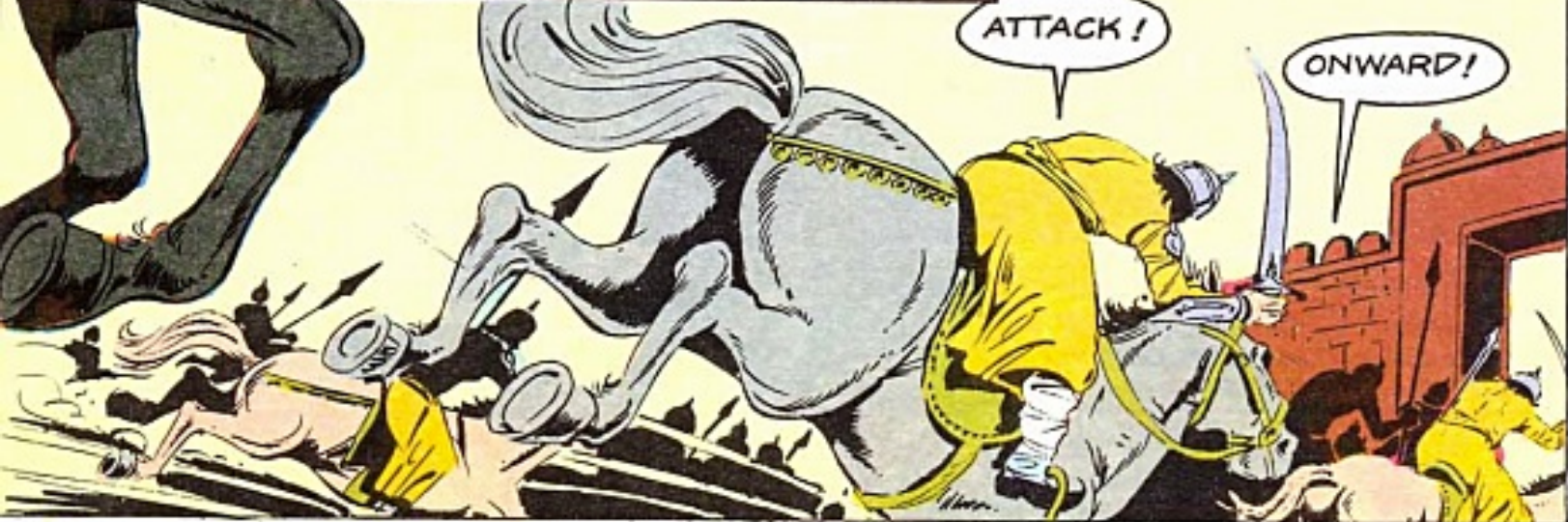
THIS
IS MY
ONLY
HOPE!

THE HORSE WAS KILLED AS IT
FELL TO THE GROUND...



... BUT MAHPA ESCAPED UNHURT.

THE NEXT DAY THE RAJPUTS STORMED THE FORT.



THE GATES OF THE FORT COULD NOT WITH-
STAND THE MOUNTING PRESSURE OF THE
RAJPUTS.



VICTORY TO
RANA KUMBHA!

MAHMUD KHILJI WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE.



SULTAN,
WHERE IS
MAHPA?

YOU HAVEN'T
FOUND HIM? SO I
HAVE THE LAST
LAUGH IT APPEARS.
YOU HAVE ME, BUT
NOT MAHPA!



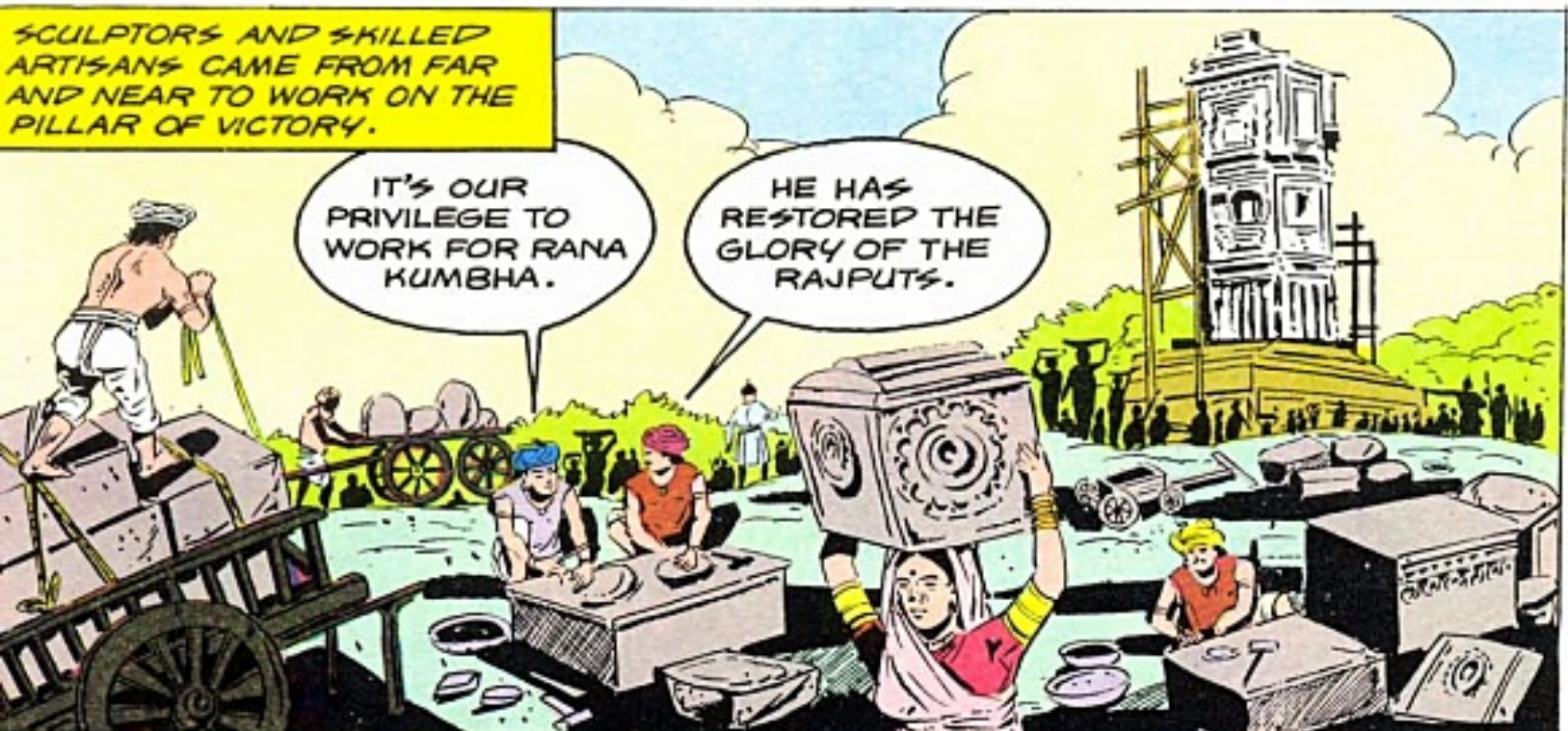
WE WILL
GET HIM YET,
IF HE IS STILL
ALIVE!

RANA KUMBHA RETURNED TO CHITTOR IN TRIUMPH.



WE WILL BUILD A
PILLAR TO COMMEMORATE
OUR VICTORY OVER
MAHMUD KHILJI.

SCULPTORS AND SKILLED
ARTISANS CAME FROM FAR
AND NEAR TO WORK ON THE
PILLAR OF VICTORY.



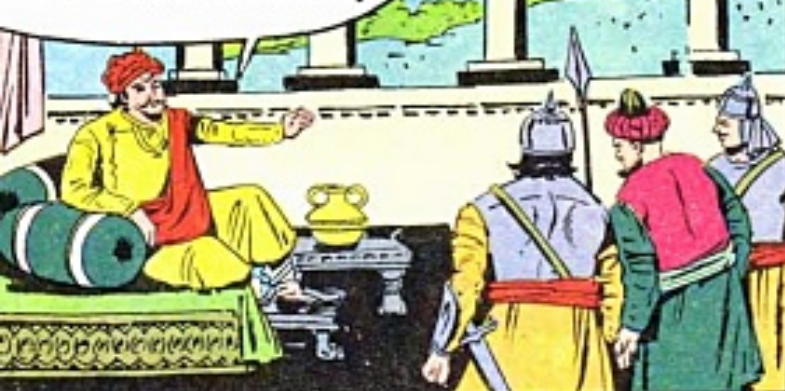
IT'S OUR
PRIVILEGE TO
WORK FOR RANA
KUMBHA.

HE HAS
RESTORED THE
GLORY OF THE
RAJPUTS.

YEARS LATER, MAHPA SOUGHT AND OBTAINED KUMBHA'S PARDON.

SIX MONTHS LATER -

SULTAN! I NOW
RELEASE YOU
AND ALSO RETURN
MANDU TO YOU. GO,
AND FROM NOW ON
DO NOT GIVE ASYLUM
TO MURDERERS!



YOU
ARE
GRACIOUS,
RANA.



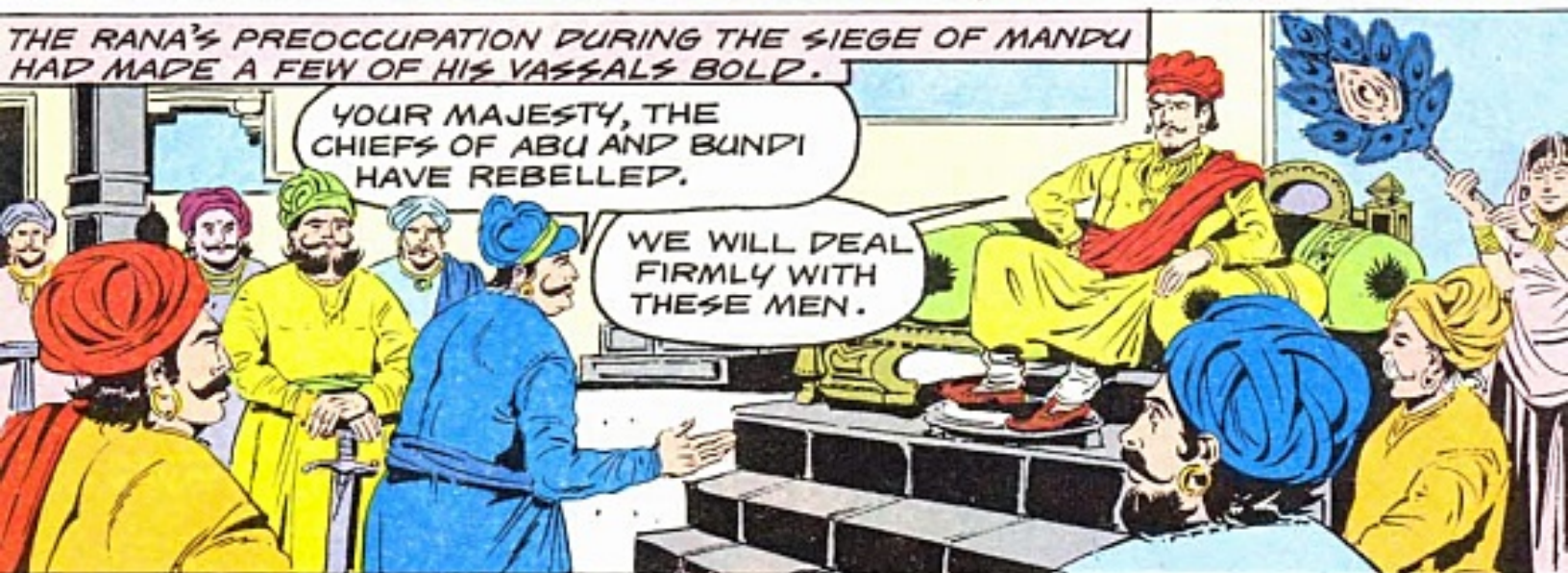
I WILL
AVENGE THIS
HUMILIATION.



THE RANA'S PREOCCUPATION DURING THE SIEGE OF MANDU
HAD MADE A FEW OF HIS VASSALS BOLD.

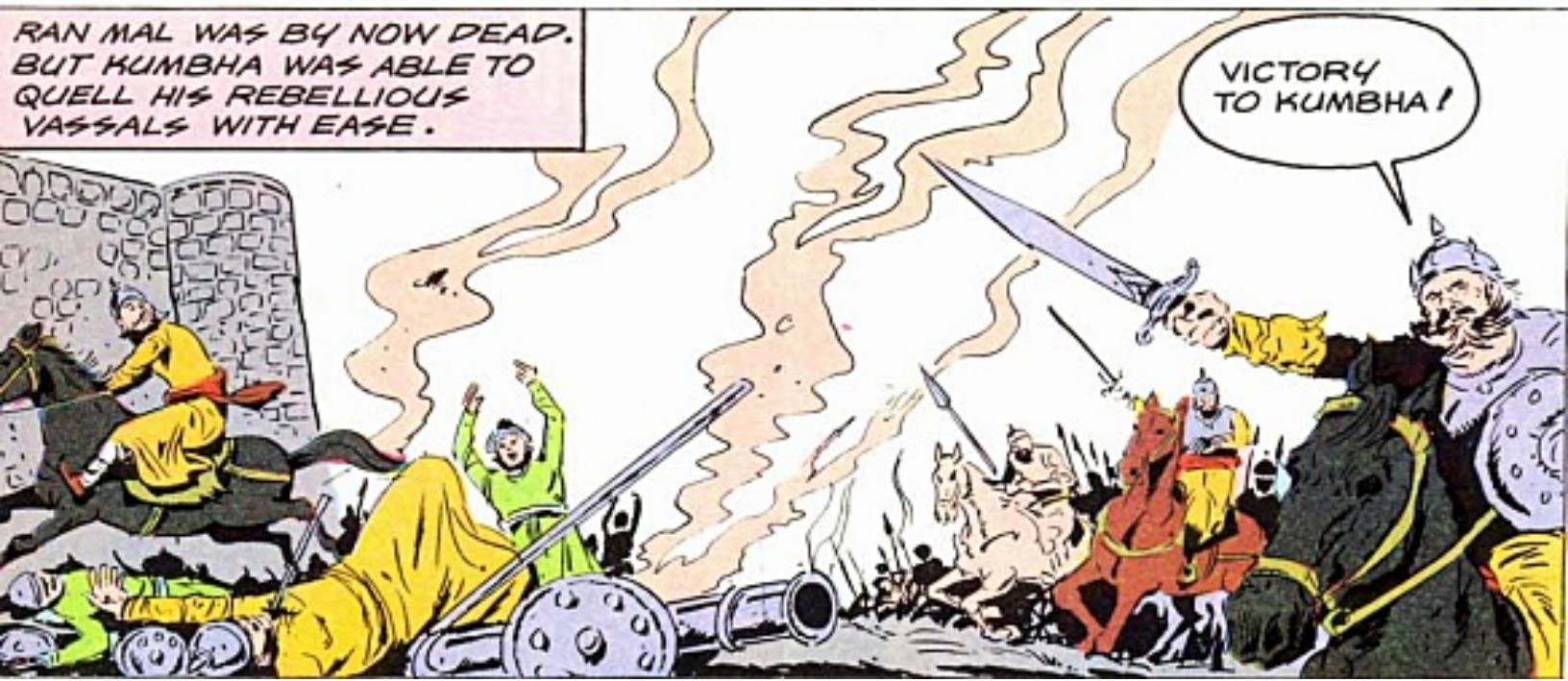
YOUR MAJESTY, THE
CHIEFS OF ABU AND BUNDI
HAVE REBELLED.

WE WILL DEAL
FIRMLY WITH
THESE MEN.



RAN MAL WAS BY NOW DEAD.
BUT KUMBHA WAS ABLE TO
QUELL HIS REBELLIOUS
VASSALS WITH EASE.

VICTORY
TO KUMBHA!



IN 1444, KUMBHA WAS AT HARAVATI PUNISHING SOME REBELS, WHEN HE RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM CHITTOR.

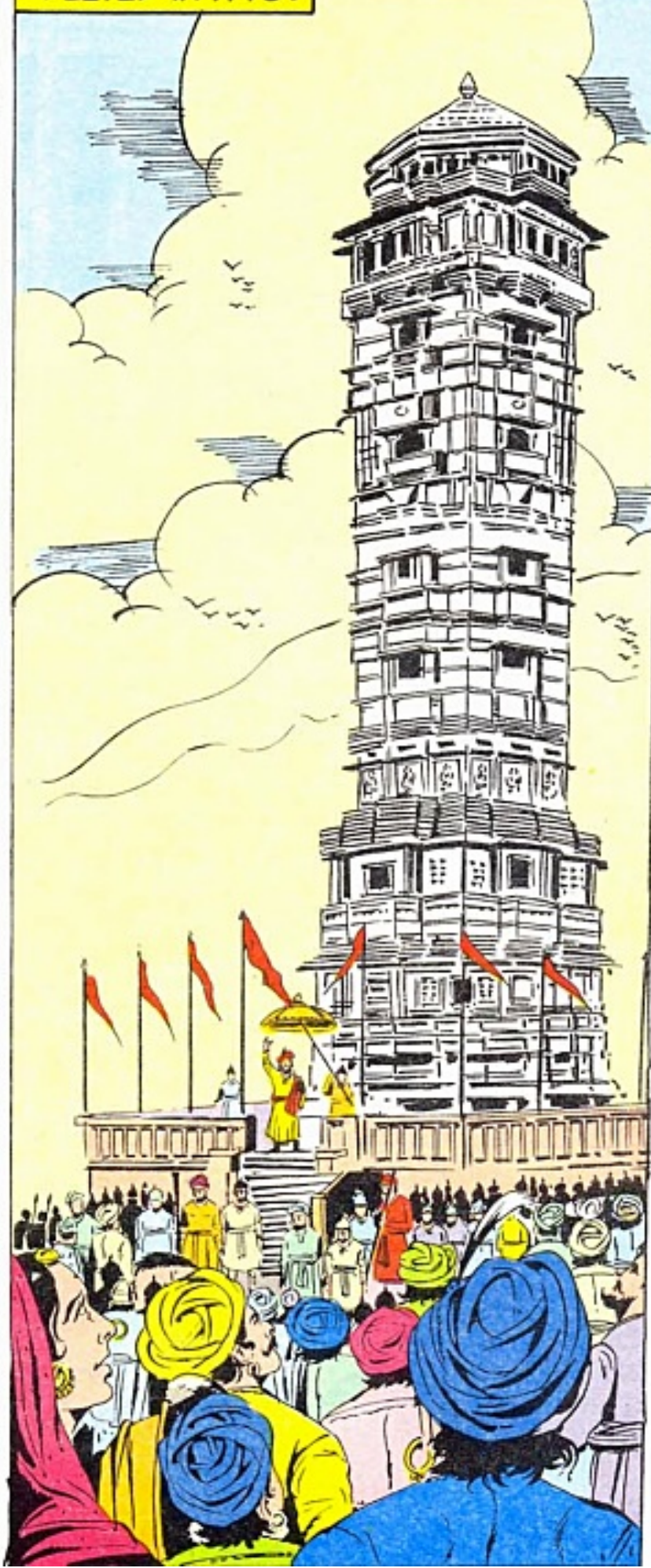


KUMBHA'S ARMY CAME UPON THE SULTAN'S FORCES NEAR MANDALGARH.

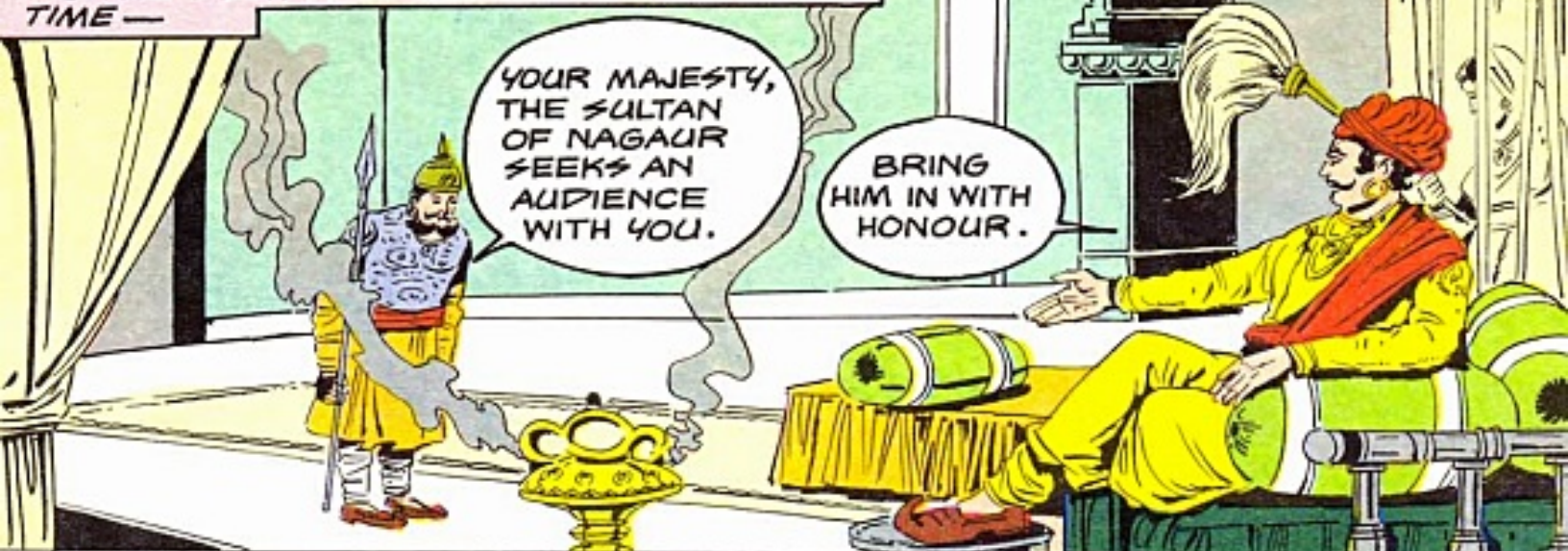


SULTAN MAHMUD KHILJI WAS ONCE AGAIN DEFEATED BY THE RANA AND HAD TO FLEE.

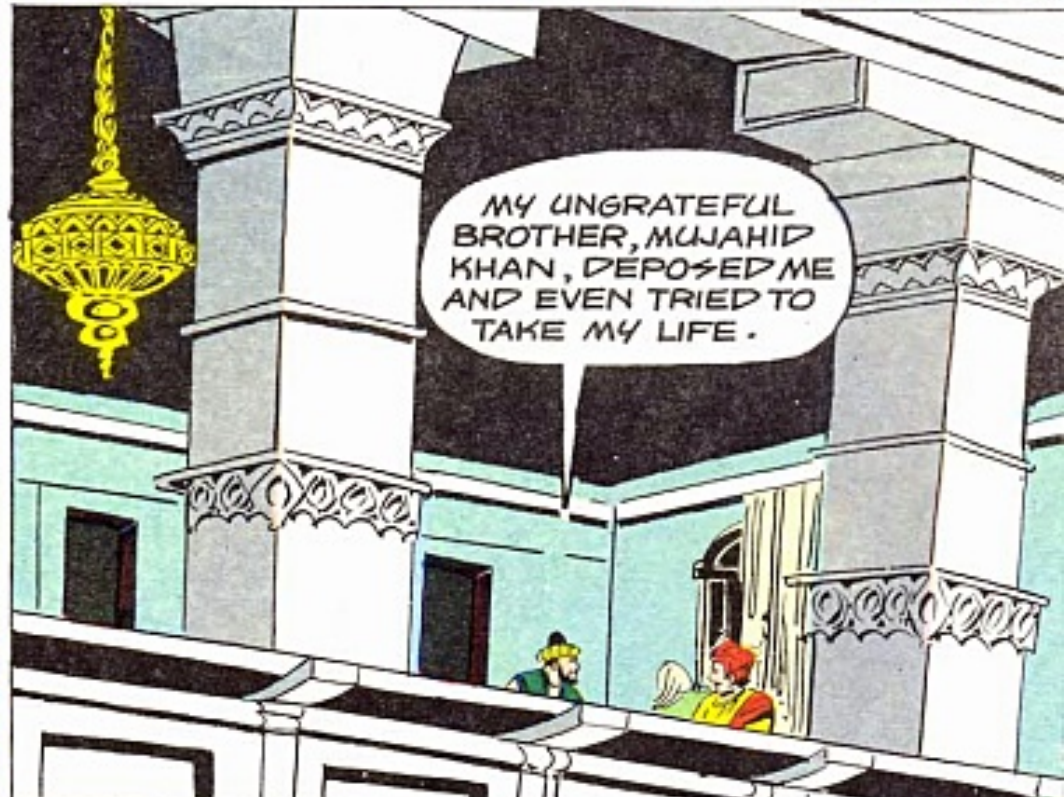
MEANWHILE, WORK ON THE RANA'S VICTORY PILLAR CONTINUED. IT WAS COMPLETED IN 1448.



ONE DAY, KUMBHA WAS RELAXING IN HIS PALACE AT KUMBHALGARH* AFTER DEFEATING THE SULTAN OF MANDU FOR THE THIRD TIME —



SHAMSKHAN, THE SULTAN OF NAGOUR, ENTERED.



* THE FORT BUILT BY KUMBHA ON A HIGH PEAK OF THE WESTERN RANGE OF THE ARAVALI HILLS.

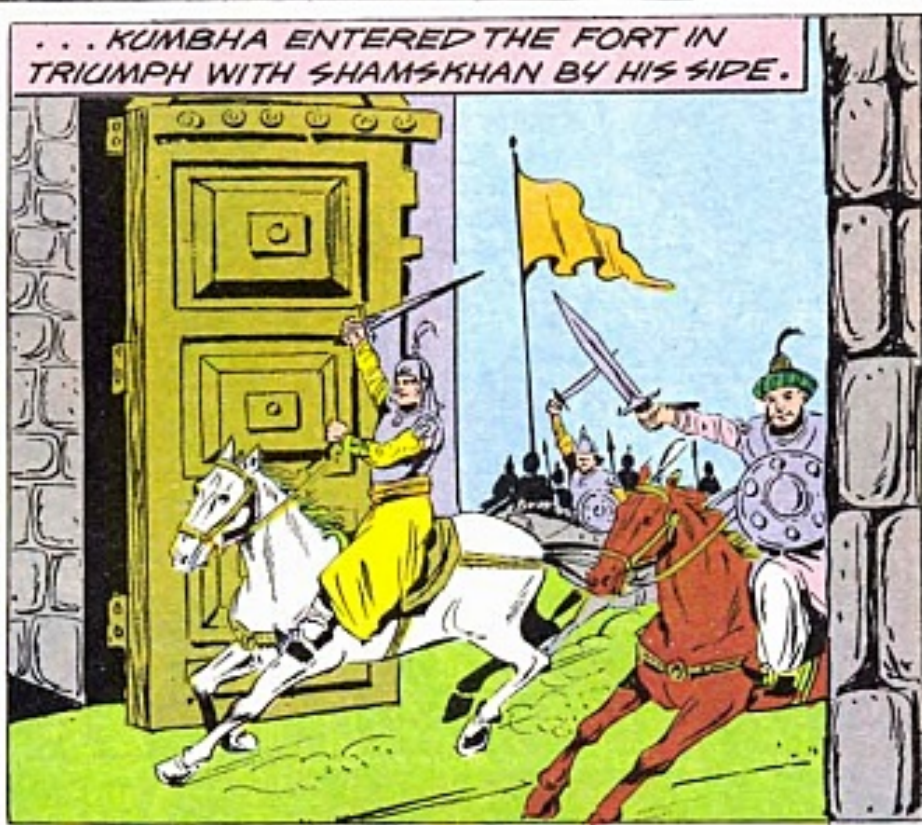
KUMBHA ADVANCED UPON NAGOUR AND STORMED THE FORT.



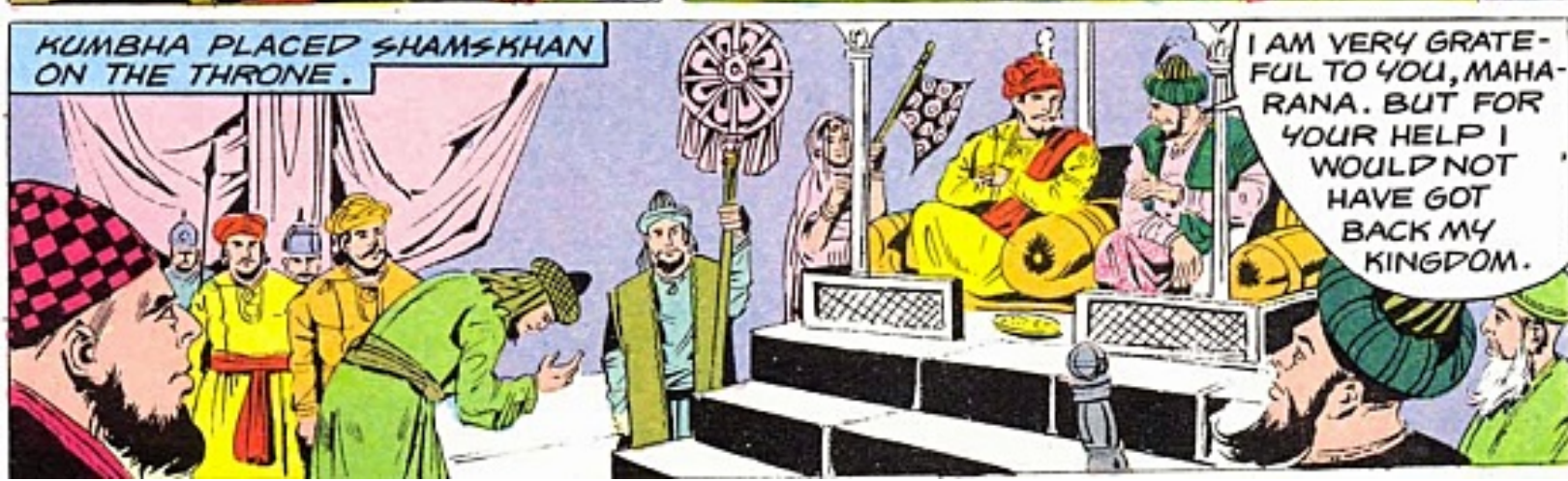
AS MUJAHID KHAN FLED FOR HIS LIFE...



... KUMBHA ENTERED THE FORT IN TRIUMPH WITH SHAMSKHAN BY HIS SIDE.



KUMBHA PLACED SHAMSKHAN ON THE THRONE.



I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU, MAHARANA. BUT FOR YOUR HELP I WOULD NOT HAVE GOT BACK MY KINGDOM.

LATER SOME OF SHAMSKHAN'S COUNCILLORS CALLED ON HIM.

SULTAN,
YOU SHOULD
NOT DEMOLISH
THE BATTLEMENTS.
IT WOULD BE
INSULTING TO
YOU.

I WILL
SEE WHAT
I CAN DO
TO PUT IT
OFF.

SHAMSKHAN CALLED
ON KUMBHA.

SRANA, I HAVE NOT FOR-
GOTTEN MY PROMISE TO
DEMOLISH A PART OF
THE BATTLEMENTS OF
THE FORT. I REQUEST
YOU TO GIVE ME A
LITTLE MORE
TIME.

ALL RIGHT.
YOU MAY HAVE
SOME MORE
TIME.

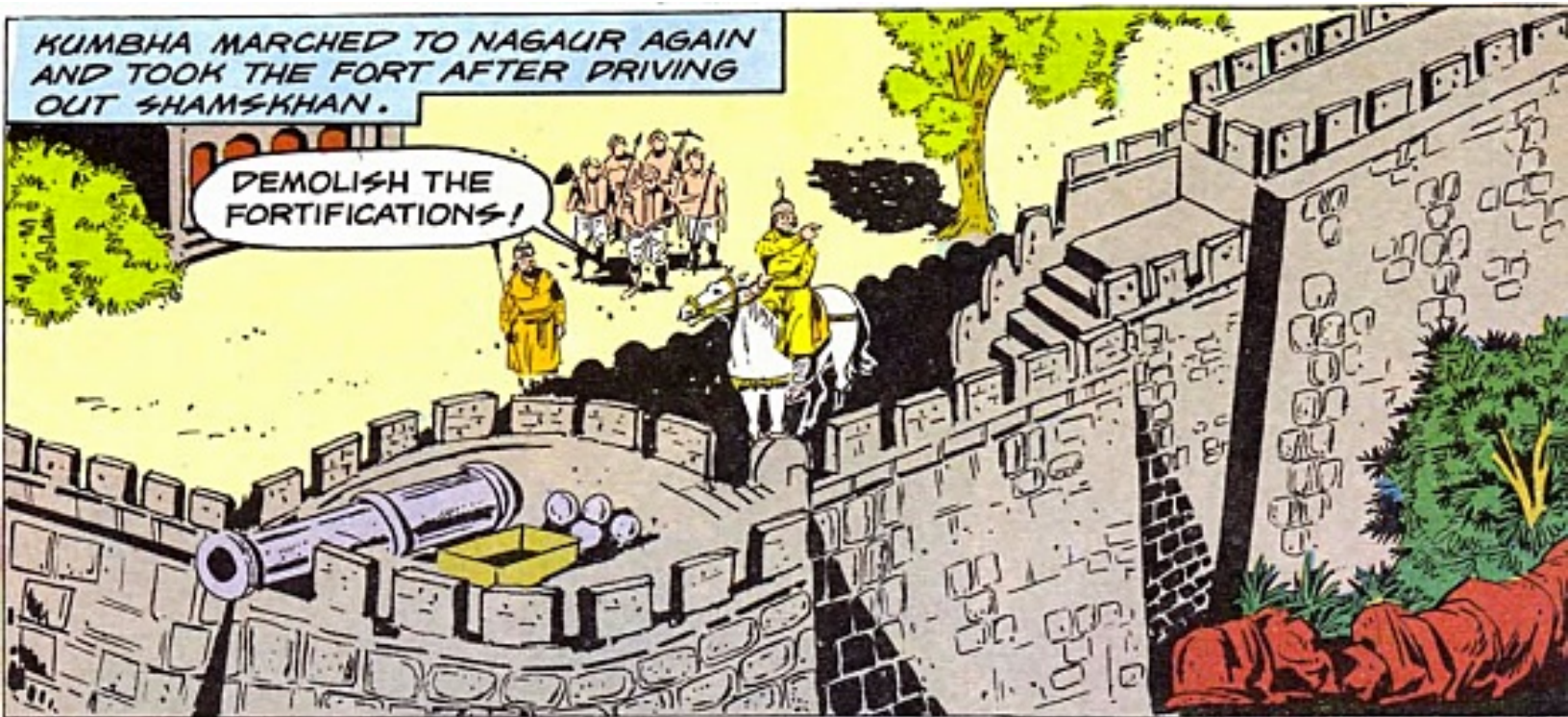
AND KUMBHA RETURNED TO KUMBHAL-
GARH. A FEW DAYS LATER —

SRANA, SHAMSKHAN HAS NO
INTENTION OF CARRYING OUT
HIS PROMISE. INSTEAD OF
DEMOLISHING THE BATTLE-
MENTS, HE IS BUSY
STRENGTHENING THEM.

HE HAS
BETRAYED
ME! I CAN'T
ALLOW HIM
TO GET AWAY
WITH IT!

KUMBHA MARCHED TO NAGOUR AGAIN AND TOOK THE FORT AFTER DRIVING OUT SHAMSKHAN.

DEMOLISH THE FORTIFICATIONS!



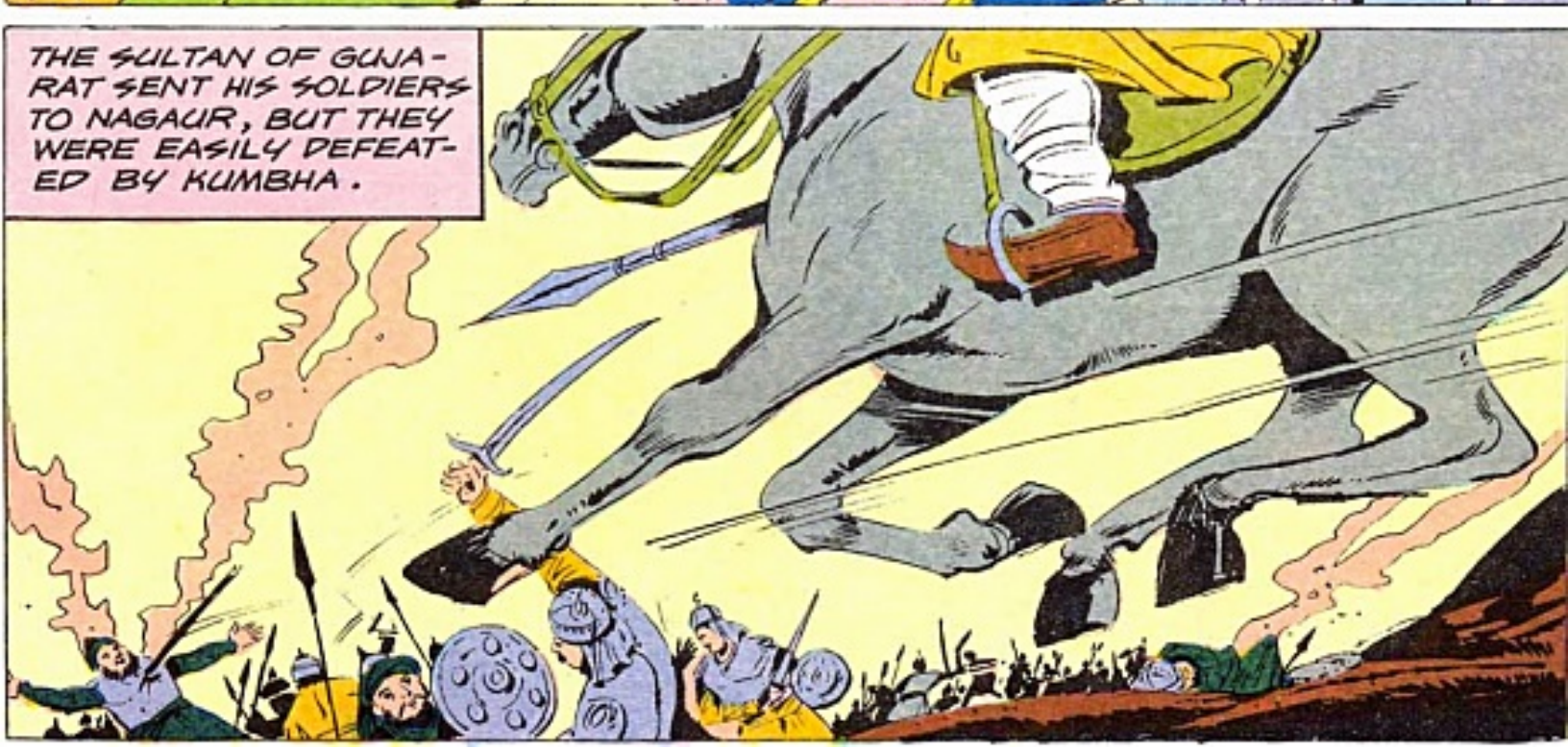
SHAMSKHAN FLED TO AHMEDABAD AND SOUGHT THE HELP OF QUTB-UD-DIN, SULTAN OF GUJARAT.

SHAMSKHAN, I'LL DRIVE KUMBHA OUT OF NAGOUR.

WE MUST MAKE THOROUGH PREPARATIONS. KUMBHA IS NO ORDINARY MILITARY COMMANDER.



THE SULTAN OF GUJARAT SENT HIS SOLDIERS TO NAGOUR, BUT THEY WERE EASILY DEFEATED BY KUMBHA.



THE ENRAGED QUTB-UD-DIN SENT FOR HIS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, IMAD-UL-MULK.

I HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE KUMBHALGARH, BUT IT WON'T BE POSSIBLE IF KUMBHA IS THERE TO DEFEND IT. WE MUST DRAW HIM AWAY FROM KUMBHALGARH.



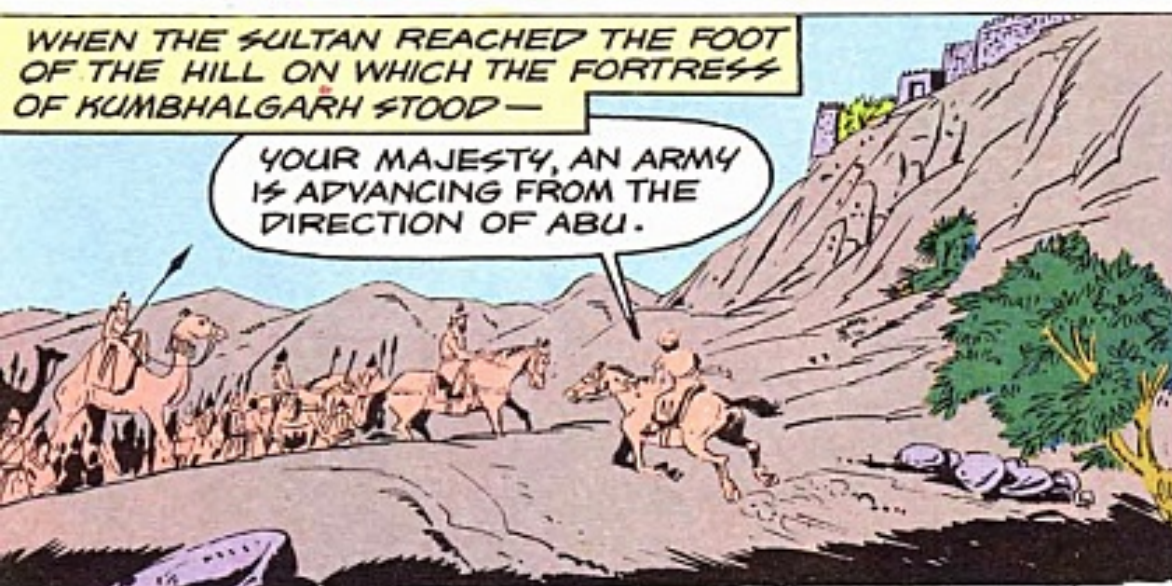
YOUR MAJESTY, I HAVE HEARD THAT KUMBHA IS CAMPING AT FORT ABU. I WILL LAY SIEGE TO ABU.

YES. DO THAT AND KEEP HIM BUSY WHILE I INVADE KUMBHALGARH.

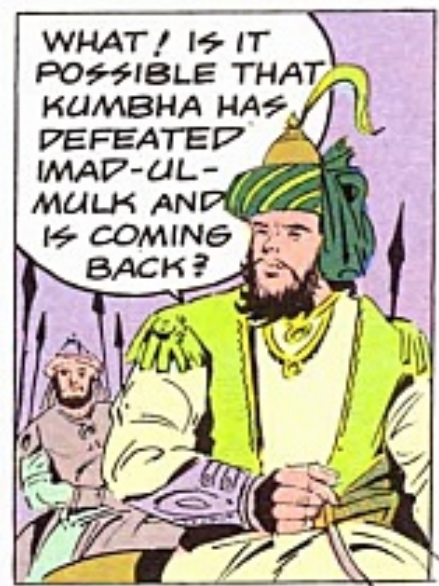


WHEN THE SULTAN REACHED THE FOOT OF THE HILL ON WHICH THE FORTRESS OF KUMBHALGARH STOOD —

YOUR MAJESTY, AN ARMY IS ADVANCING FROM THE DIRECTION OF ABU.



WHAT! IS IT POSSIBLE THAT KUMBHA HAS DEFEATED IMAD-UL-MULK AND IS COMING BACK?



BUT SOON THE SULTAN'S FEARS WERE DISPELLED. IT WAS IMAD-UL-MULK'S ARMY THAT WAS APPROACHING.

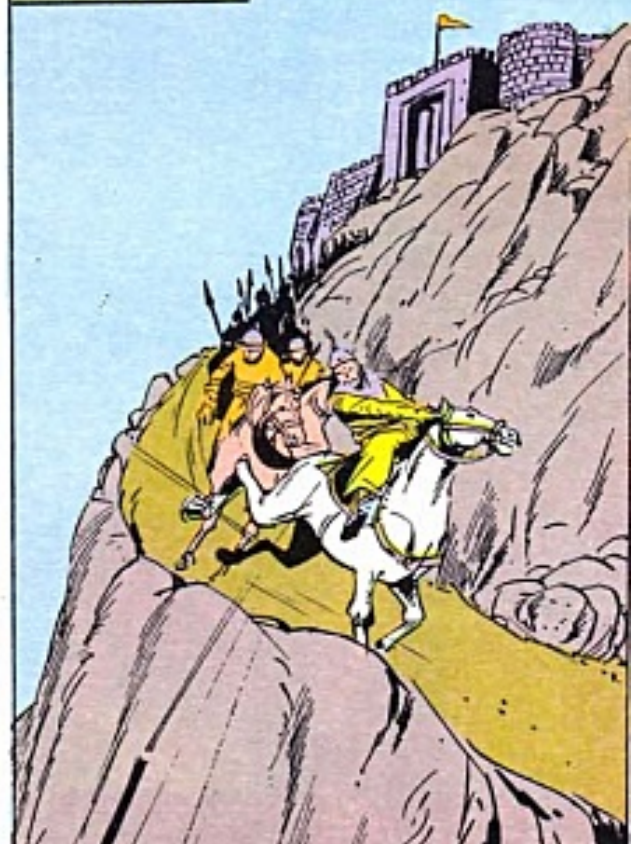


YOUR MAJESTY, OUR ARMY WAS BATTERED BY KUMBHA. WE HAD TO RUN FOR OUR LIVES.

YOU DID WELL IN JOINING ME. WE'LL TAKE KUMBHALGARH WHILE KUMBHA IS BUSY CELEBRATING HIS VICTORY AT ABU.



BUT AS THE SULTAN BEGAN TO CLIMB THE HILL WITH HIS ARMY —



IT'S KUMBHA!



IT WAS INDEED KUMBHA. HE HAD REACHED KUMBHALGARH BY ANOTHER ROUTE AND HAD COME OUT TO COUNTER THE SULTAN'S ATTACK.



KUMBHA DEFEATED THE SULTAN OF GUJARAT WHO WAS FORCED TO RETRACE HIS STEPS. ON HIS WAY BACK—

SULTAN, I AM TEJ KHAN, THE PRIME MINISTER OF SULTAN KHILJI. IF THE FORCES OF MANDU AND GUJARAT JOIN HANDS, KUMBHA CAN BE EASILY DEFEATED.



I AM PREPARED TO ENTER INTO AN ALLIANCE WITH THE SULTAN OF MANDU.

AT CHITTOR —



RANA, THE GUJARAT FORCES ARE ADVANCING TOWARDS KUMBHALGARH. AND MAHMUD KHILJI IS PREPARING TO MARCH TOWARDS CHITTOR. THEY HAVE FORGED AN ALLIANCE AGAINST MEWAR.

PREPARE TO MEET THE GUJARAT FORCES FIRST. THE SULTAN OF MANDU, TOO, WILL GET A FITTING RECEPTION.

RANA KUMBHA'S FORCES MET THE ARMY OF GUJARAT AT MANDALGARH. IN THE BATTLE, THE RAJPUTS SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES IN MEN AND EQUIPMENT.



IN PITCH DARKNESS, THEY RETREATED TO A HILLY CAVERN.



THAT NIGHT RANA KUMBHA SPOKE TO HIS MEN.

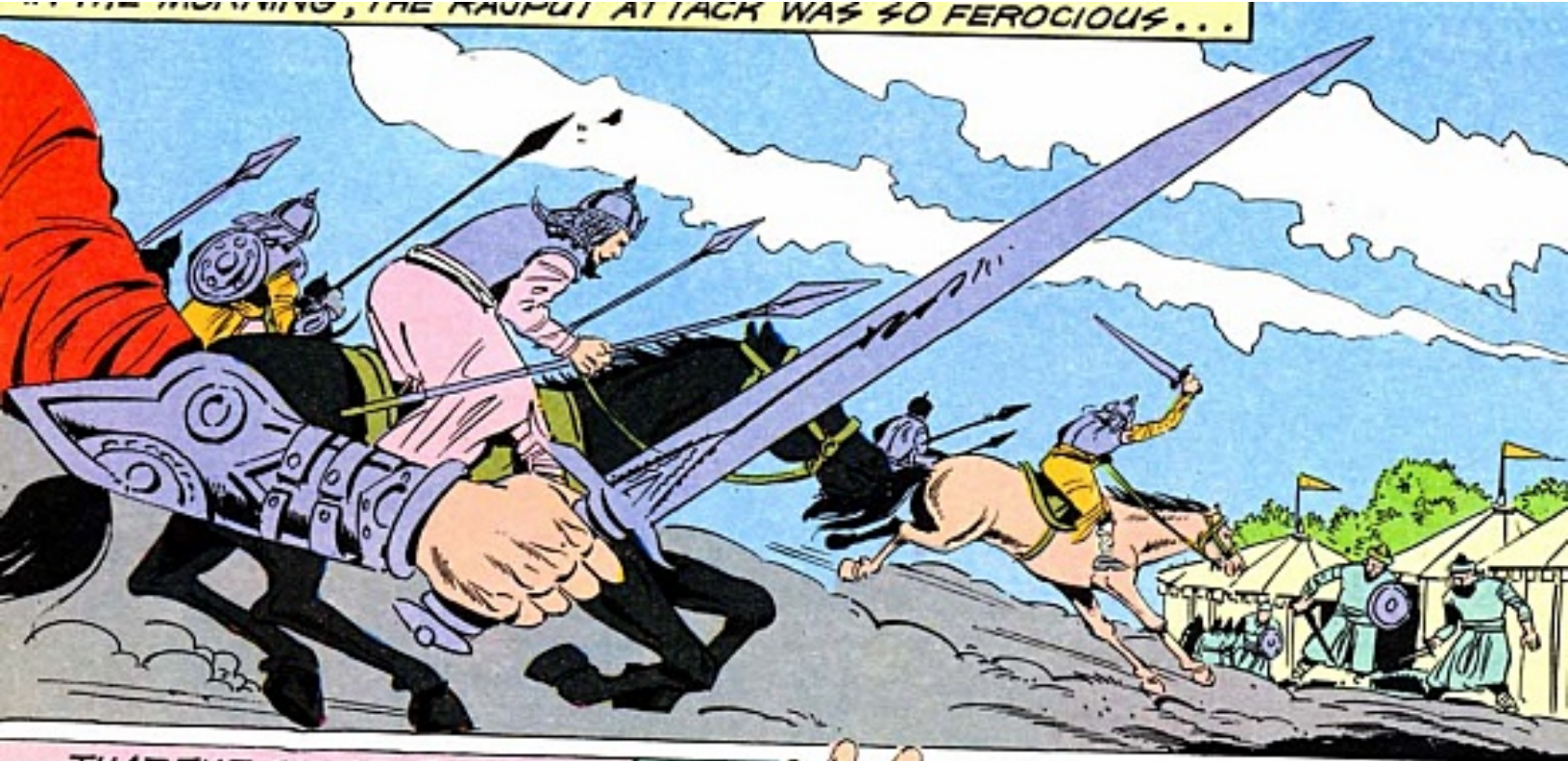
MY BRAVE MEN! IF WE LOSE THIS BATTLE, THE SULTAN OF MANDU WILL OCCUPY CHITTOR WHICH IS SACRED TO US.



THEN TOMORROW MORNING WE WILL RESUME THE ATTACK WITH RENEWED STRENGTH. THE ENEMY WILL BE TAKEN UNAWARES, THEY THINK WE HAVE LOST HEART.

RANA, WE WILL ATTACK! JAI MEWAR! JAI EKA-LINGJI!





BUT HE WAS IN FOR A SURPRISE.

A CLOUD
OF DUST IN
THE EAST!
COULD IT
BE...?

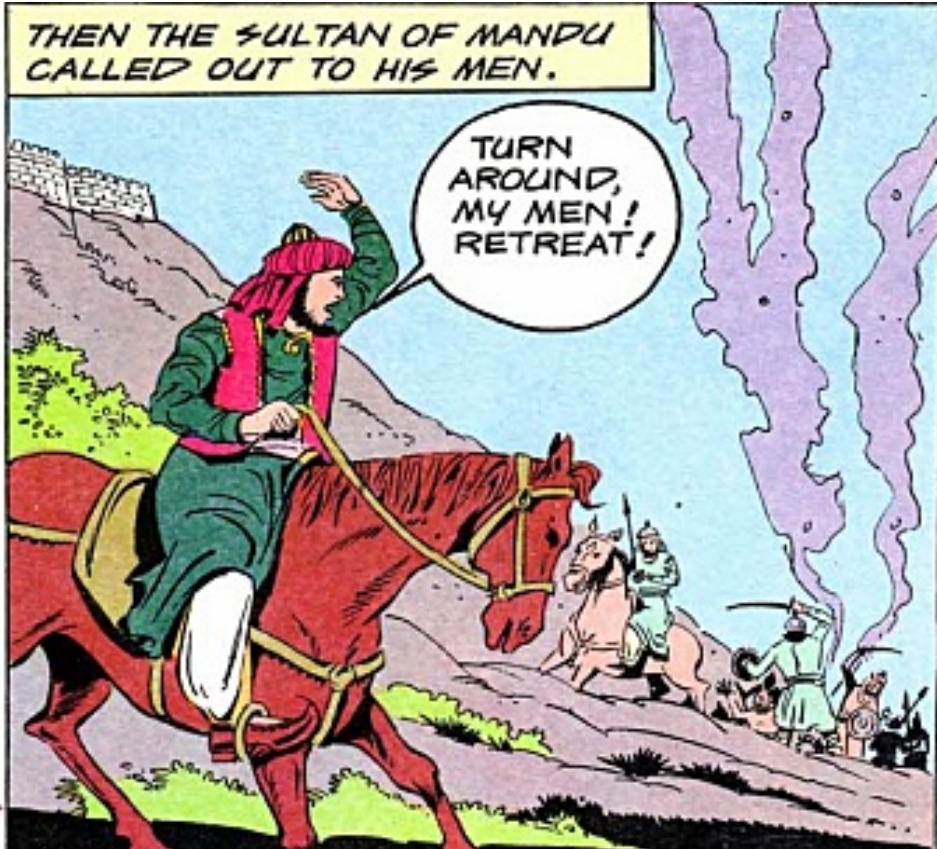
OH, IT IS
KUMBHA!

THE SURPRISE ATTACK DEMORALISED THE FORCES OF MANDU.

I HAVE TRIED TIME
AND AGAIN TO DEFEAT
THE RANA. HE IS
INVINCIBLE. I HAVE TO
ACCEPT THIS BITTER
TRUTH.

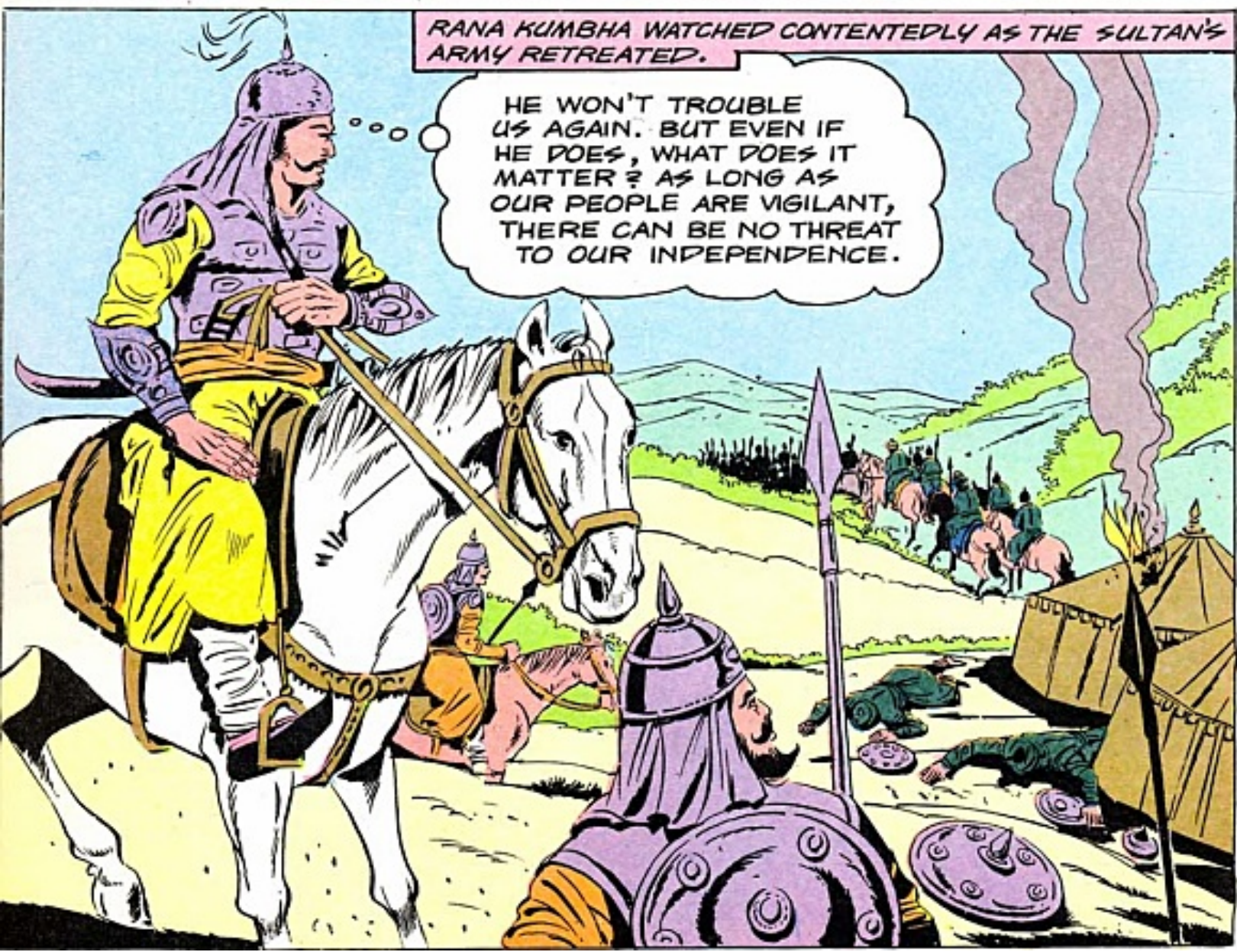


THEN THE SULTAN OF MANDU
CALLED OUT TO HIS MEN.



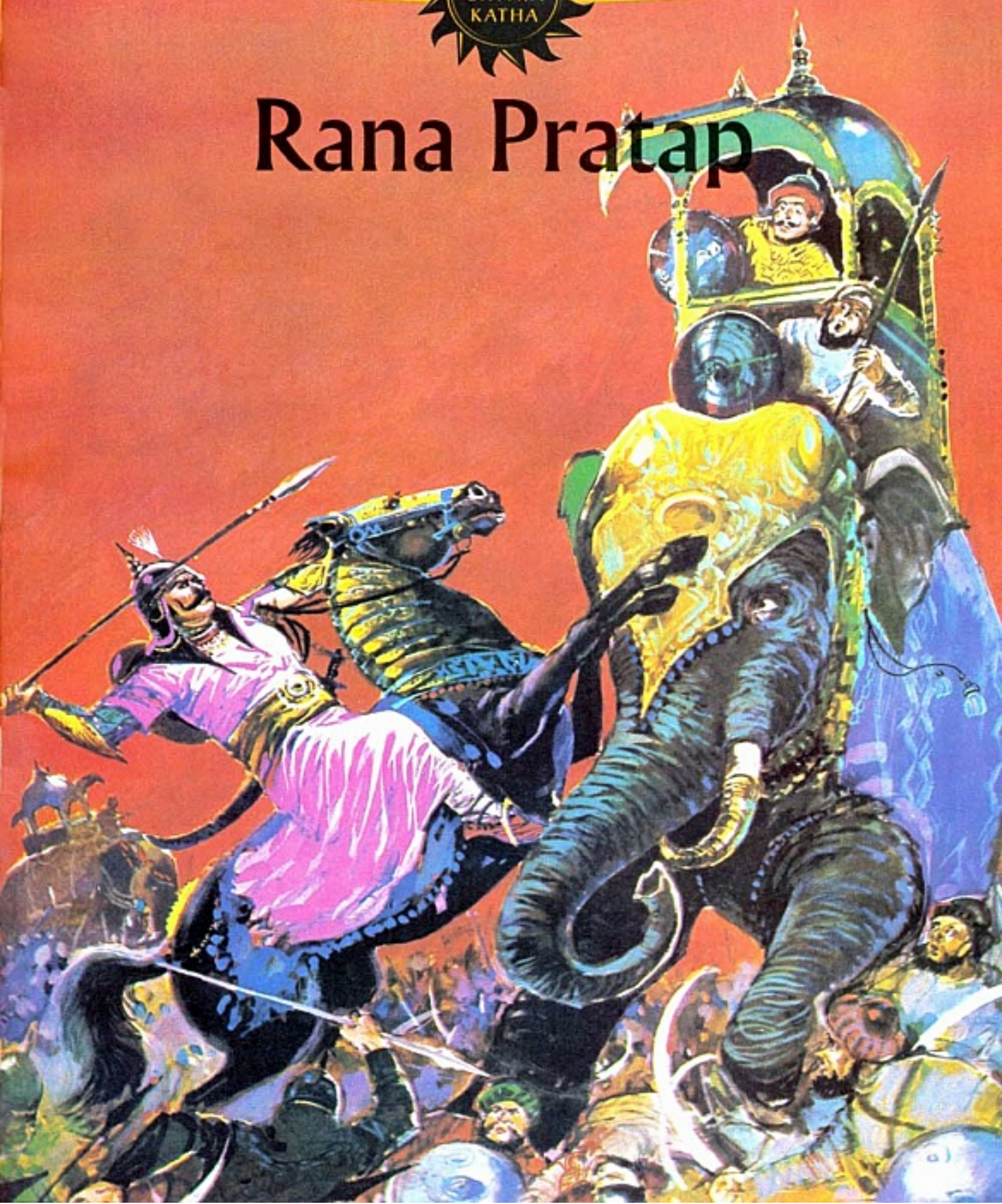
RANA KUMBHA WATCHED CONTENTEDLY AS THE SULTAN'S
ARMY RETREATED.

HE WON'T TROUBLE
US AGAIN. BUT EVEN IF
HE DOES, WHAT DOES IT
MATTER? AS LONG AS
OUR PEOPLE ARE VIGILANT,
THERE CAN BE NO THREAT
TO OUR INDEPENDENCE.





Rana Pratap





Illustrated Classics From India

Rana Pratap

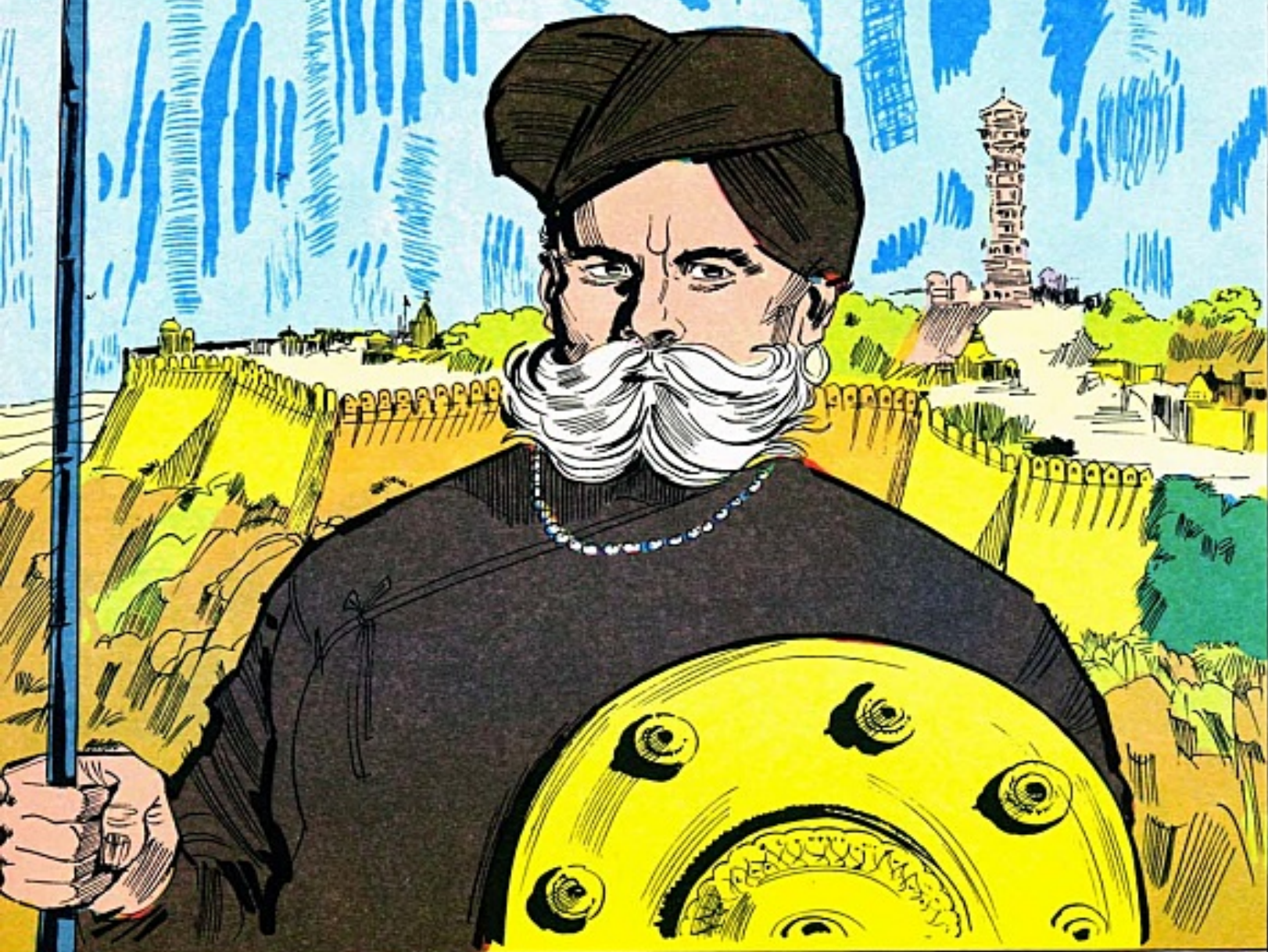
With Akbar coming to the throne of the Mughal Empire in early 1556, the Mughals had become a part of India. As a conqueror, Akbar triumphed all over North India, and subsequently added Gujarat, Bengal, Orissa, Kashmir and Sindh to his empire. He was victorious in Central and South India too. In his efforts to consolidate his empire, Akbar appointed Rajput nobles to the highest posts in his empire. Thus he succeeded in winning the goodwill of the Hindus. The Rajputs flocked to serve him and do him honour.

During this period when almost everyone in Northern India had bowed down before Akbar, only the lone, unbending figure of Rana Pratap stood against him. He refused to accept Akbar's supremacy. Had he agreed to surrender, Rana Pratap could have led an easy and comfortable life in the court of Akbar. But for this brave Rajput warrior king, his freedom was his honour, which he cherished even more than his own life. Greatly outnumbered by Akbar's huge forces, Rana lived a hunted life in the jungles and suffered grave hardships. But these sufferings only spurred him on in his struggle for freedom.

This Amar Chitra Katha presents the tale of Rana Pratap's heroic struggle against the might of the Mughal emperor.

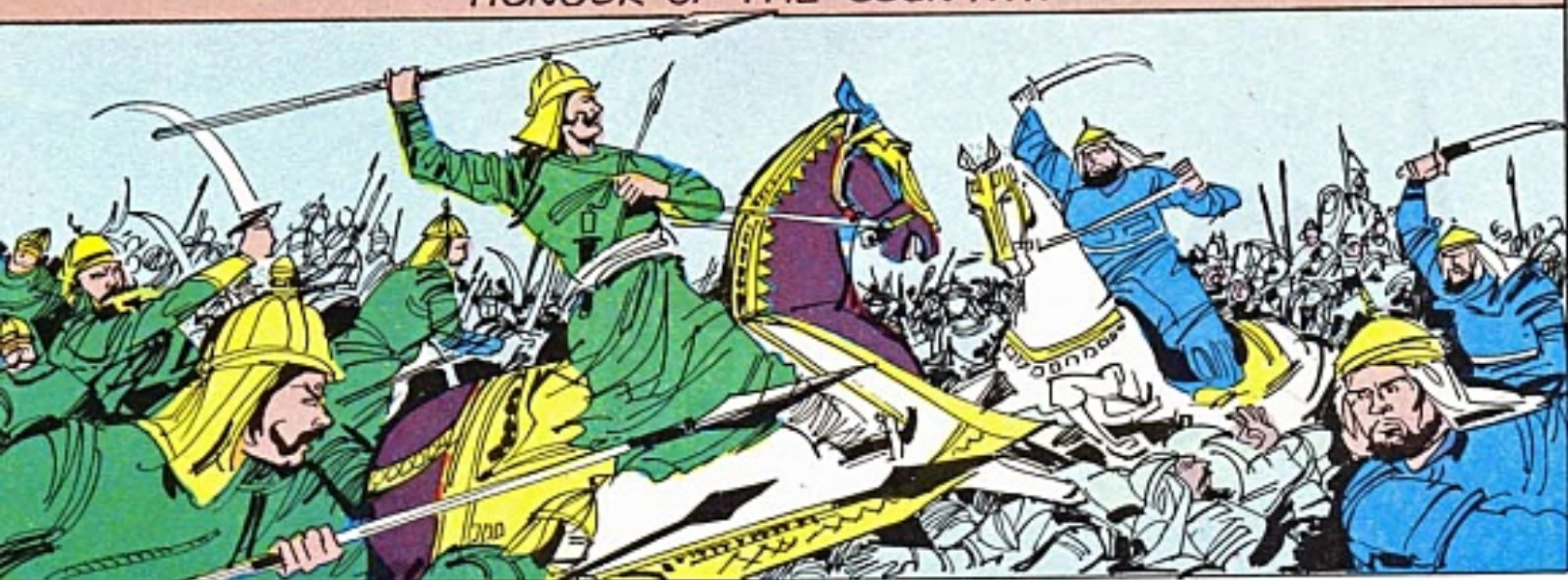
Script: Yagya Sharma Illustrations: Pratap Mulick Cover: Pratap Mulick

Rana Pratap



RAJASTHAN IN WESTERN INDIA WAS THE HOME OF THE VALIANT RAJPUTS.

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, THEY HAD REPEATEDLY FOUGHT FOR THE
HONOUR OF THE COUNTRY.



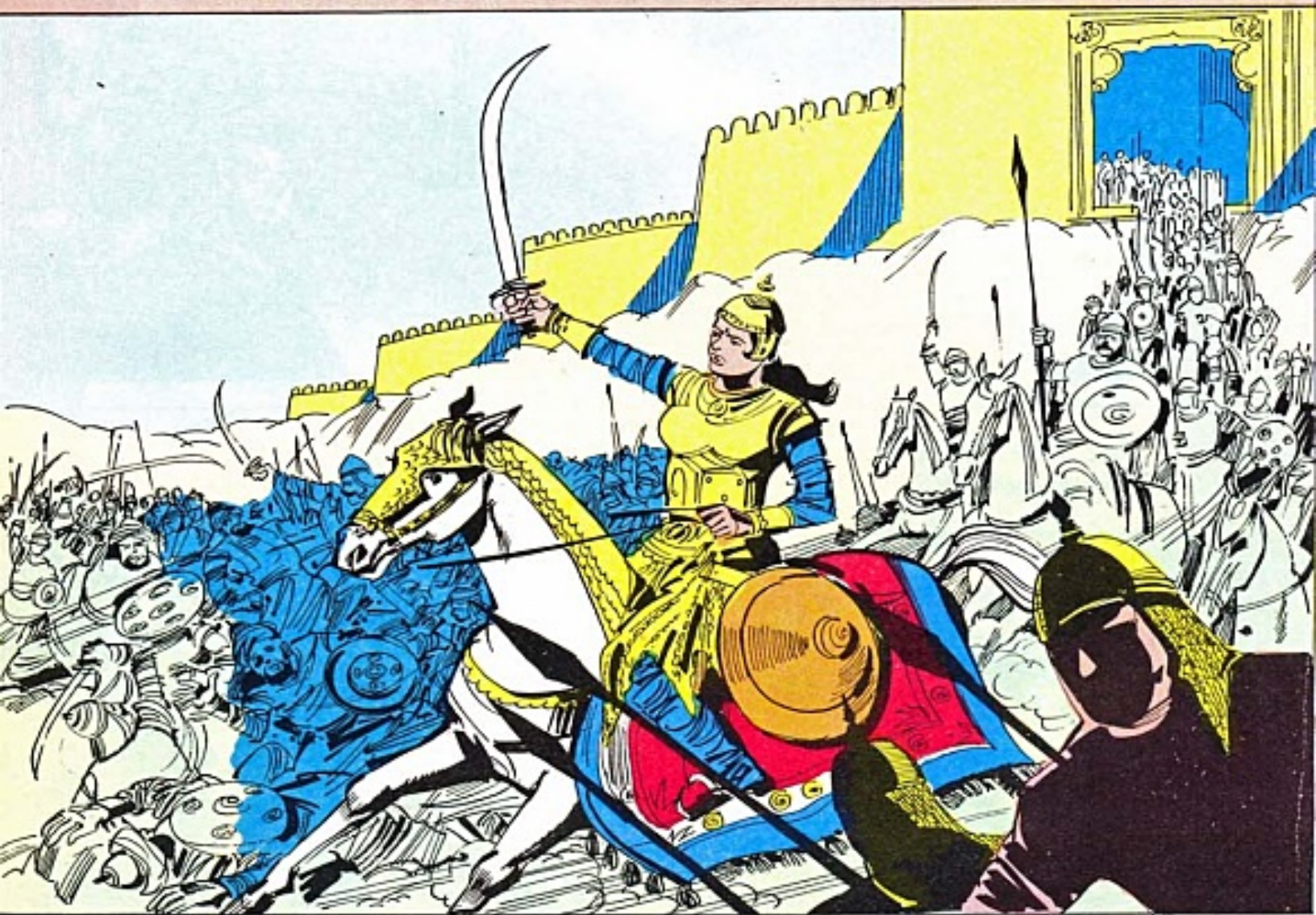
BUT THE RAJPUTS OF CHITTOR SURPASSED ALL, IN
DEEDS OF BRAVERY AND PERSONAL SACRIFICE.



IN THE EIGHTH CENTURY A.D. THEY REPULSED
AN INVASION OF THEIR LAND.



AND THEIR WOMEN WERE NO LESS HEROIC. CHITTOR'S QUEEN KARMA DEVI HAD DEFEATED THE POWERFUL HORDES OF QUTAB-UD-DIN.



IN THE 14TH CENTURY, QUEEN PADMINI AND HUNDREDS OF RAJPUT WOMEN OF CHITTOR PERFORMED SATI, AN ACT OF SELF-IMMOLATION TO SAVE THEIR HONOUR FROM THE INVADER, ALA-UD-DIN KHILJI.

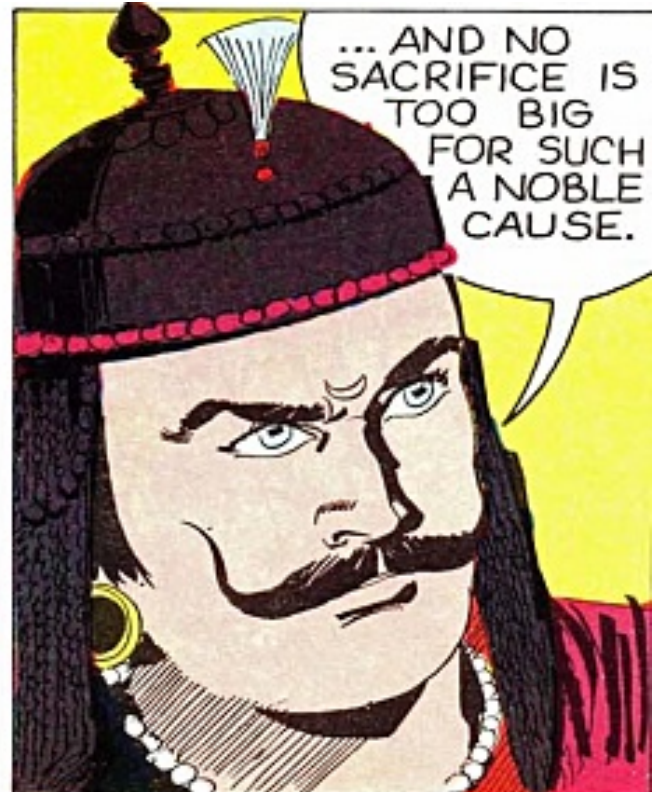


THE MUGHALS WERE THE FIRST INVADERS WHO SUCCEEDED IN OCCUPYING CHITTOR.



ALMOST ALL MAJOR RAJPUT KINGS HAD SURRENDERED TO THE ENEMY, BUT RANA PRATAP, THE KING OF CHITTOR, REFUSED TO.





SO, A HANDFUL OF RANA PRATAP'S WARRIORS ATTACKED A FORT, UNDER MUGHAL OCCUPATION, NEAR CHITTOR.

HAR HAR MAHADEV!



JAI CHANDI !



FINALLY THE MUGHAL FORCES WERE DEFEATED.

WELL DONE, MY MEN!
THE FORT IS OURS.



THIS VICTORY BROUGHT MANY RAJPUTS FROM CHITTOR TO THE FORT TO JOIN PRATAP'S FORCES.

TELL THE PEOPLE OF CHITTOR THAT THOUGH THEY ARE RULED BY THE INVADERS...



... I AM THEIR TRUE KING. I ORDER THAT NOBODY SHALL TILL THE LAND TILL WE ATTAIN FREEDOM.



MEANWHILE, IN THE COURT OF AKBAR -

HAVE YOU
HEARD THE LATEST JOKE?
PRATAP STILL CALLS
HIMSELF THE KING OF
CHITTOR.

OF COURSE,
HE IS A KING
BUT WITHOUT A
KINGDOM.



SILENCE!
YOU FORGET
THAT PRATAP
HAS TAKEN A
FORT.



BUT SIR, OUR
HUGE ARMY
CAN CRUSH HIM
IN NO TIME.



YOU ARE WRONG.
IT IS NOT GOING TO BE
EASY TO CRUSH
PRATAP.



MEANWHILE IN RANA PRATAP'S FORT -

RANAJI! THIS
MAN WAS
TILLING HIS
LAND.



WHY DID YOU
DISOBEY MY
ORDERS ?



BUT I HAD
TAKEN THE
PERMISSION
OF THE
MUGHAL
GOVERNOR.

I AM THE KING
OF CHITTOR
AND I HAVE NOT
GIVEN YOU THE
PERMISSION...



...YOUR CROP WILL
FINALLY FEED THE
ENEMY AND THUS
HELP HIM.



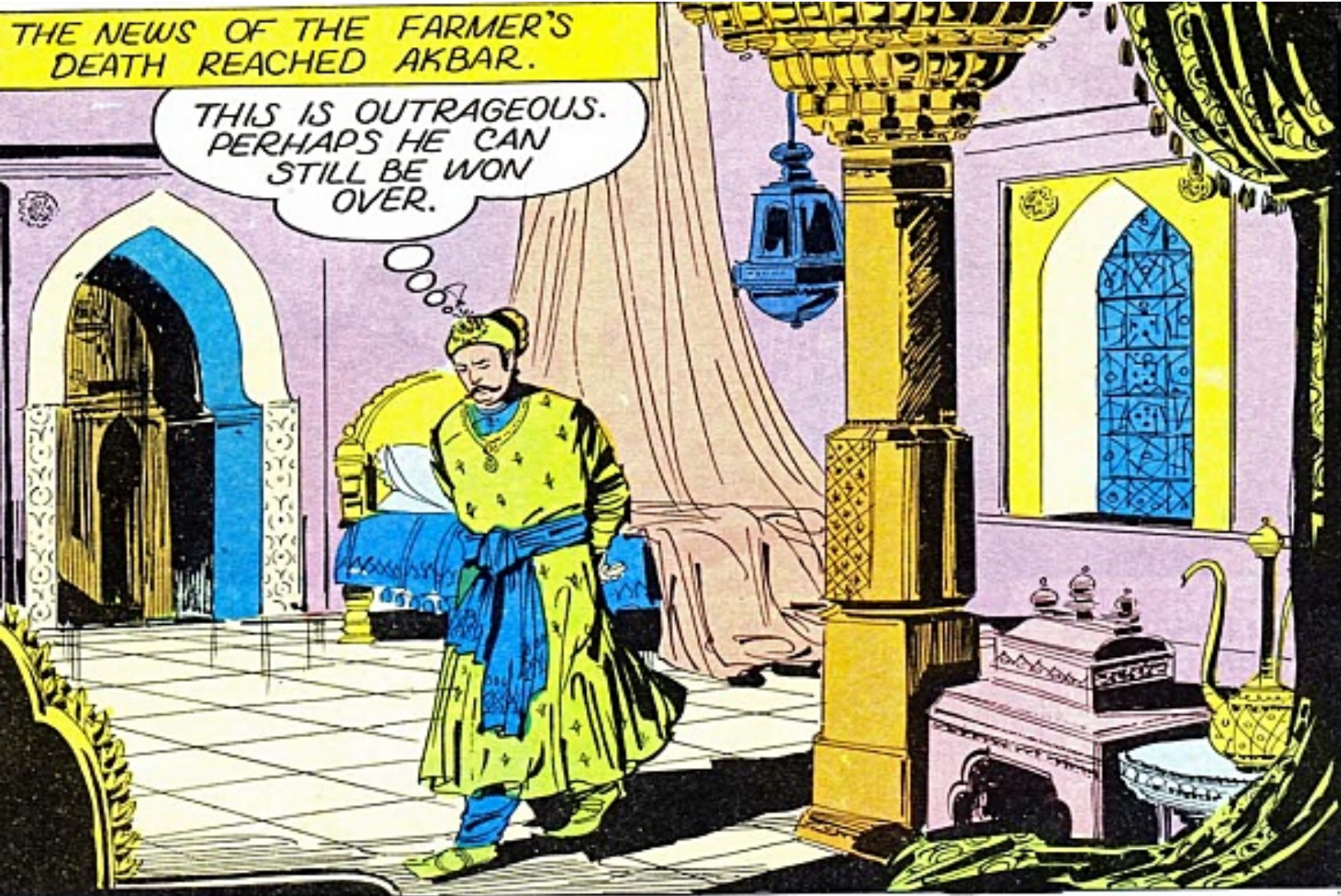
FOR ACTING AGAINST
THE INTEREST OF OUR
MOTHER-LAND,
YOU SHALL DIE !



THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE FARMER WAS HANGED.

THE NEWS OF THE FARMER'S DEATH REACHED AKBAR.

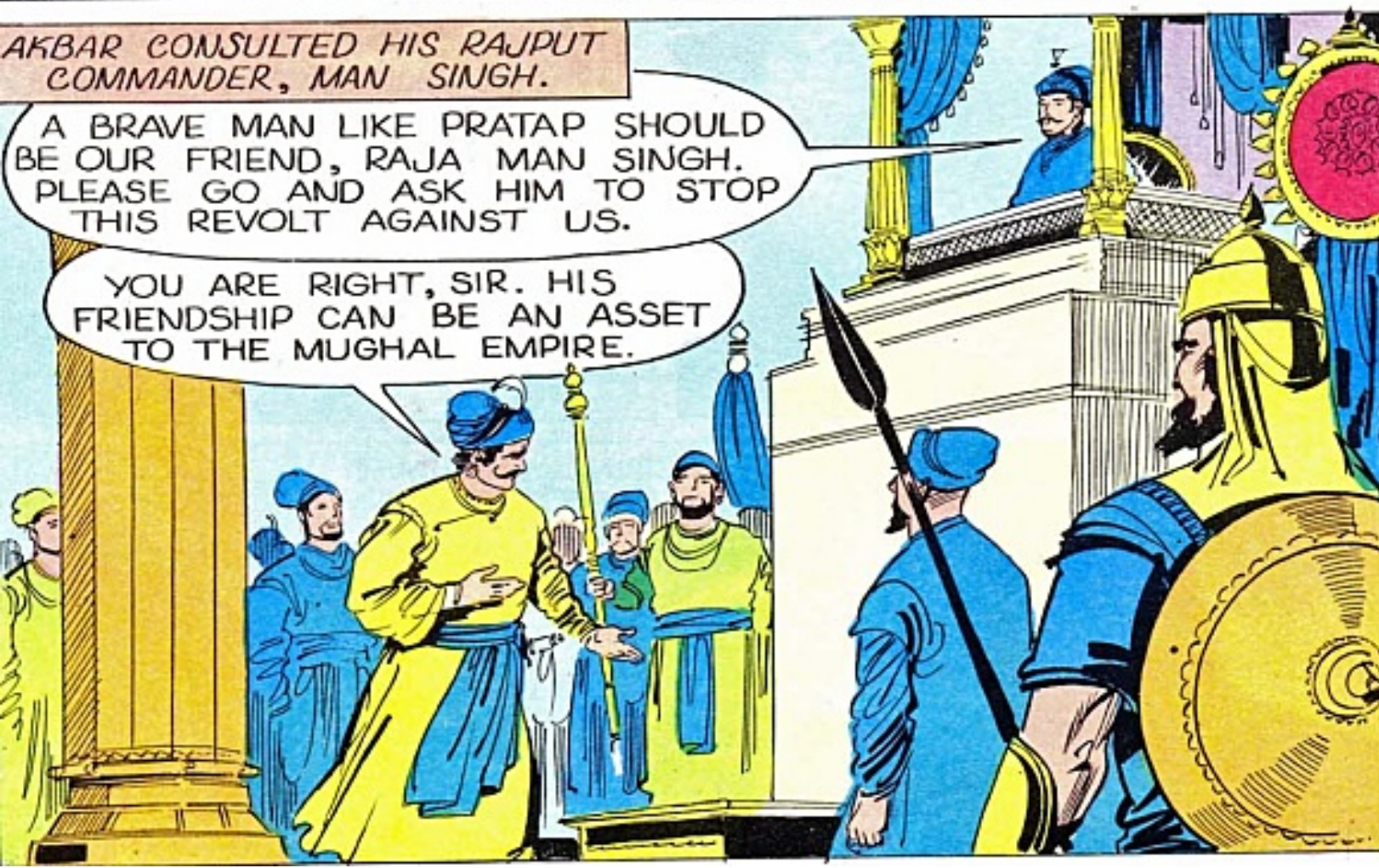
THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS.
PERHAPS HE CAN
STILL BE WON
OVER.



AKBAR CONSULTED HIS RAJPUT
COMMANDER, MAN SINGH.

A BRAVE MAN LIKE PRATAP SHOULD
BE OUR FRIEND, RAJA MAN SINGH.
PLEASE GO AND ASK HIM TO STOP
THIS REVOLT AGAINST US.

YOU ARE RIGHT, SIR. HIS
FRIENDSHIP CAN BE AN ASSET
TO THE MUGHAL EMPIRE.



AND SO MAN SINGH WENT TO MEET RANA PRATAP.
HE WAS RECEIVED BY PRATAP'S MINISTER.

WELCOME, SIR,
MAN SINGH!

I HAVE A
MESSAGE.
MAHARAJ AKBAR,
THE KING OF
BHARAT, SEEKS
RANAJI'S
FRIENDSHIP.

HE MAY BE A KING
FOR YOU, BUT TO US
HE IS AN INVADER,
AN ENEMY.

IT IS TREASON
TO RISE
AGAINST THE
KING.

IT IS NOT
TREASON BUT
OUR SACRED
DUTY TO FIGHT
FOR OUR
FREEDOM.

BUT WHY DON'T
YOU REALISE
THAT YOU CAN'T
DEFEAT OUR
HUGE FORCES.

WE SHALL DO
OUR DUTY WHETHER
WE WIN OR
NOT.

RANA PRATAP ENTERED WITH
HIS SON, AMAR SINGH.

THAT IS ENOUGH FOR
NOW, MINISTER WE WILL
DISCUSS THE MATTER
LATER. RAJA MAN SINGH
MUST BE HUNGRY. LET
US OFFER HIM OUR
SIMPLE FOOD, AMAR.

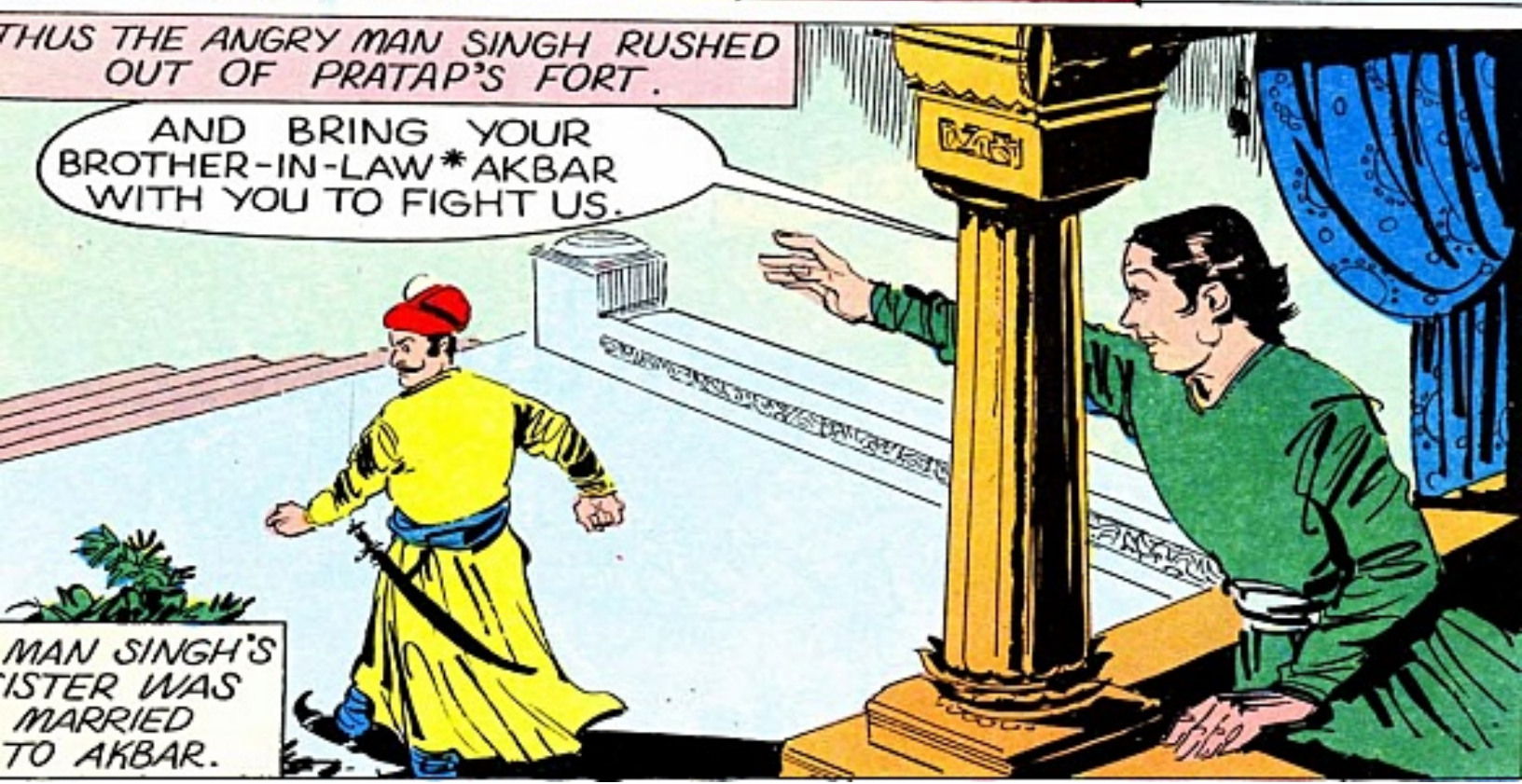
YES
FATHER!



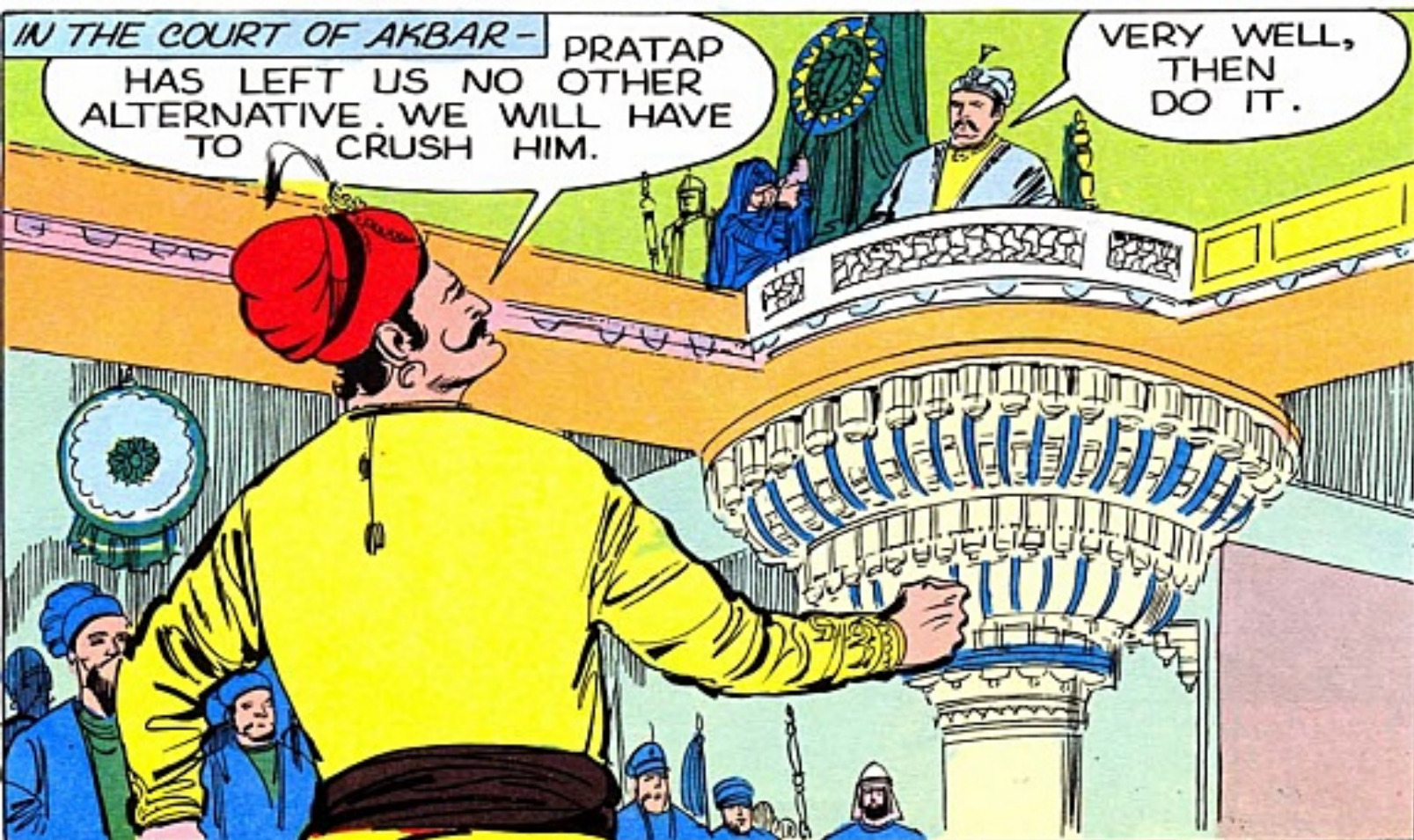
NO, YOU ARE OUR
GUEST. SO, YOU
MUST EAT
BEFORE US.

BUT
THE HOST
MUST ALSO
EAT WITH
THE GUEST.





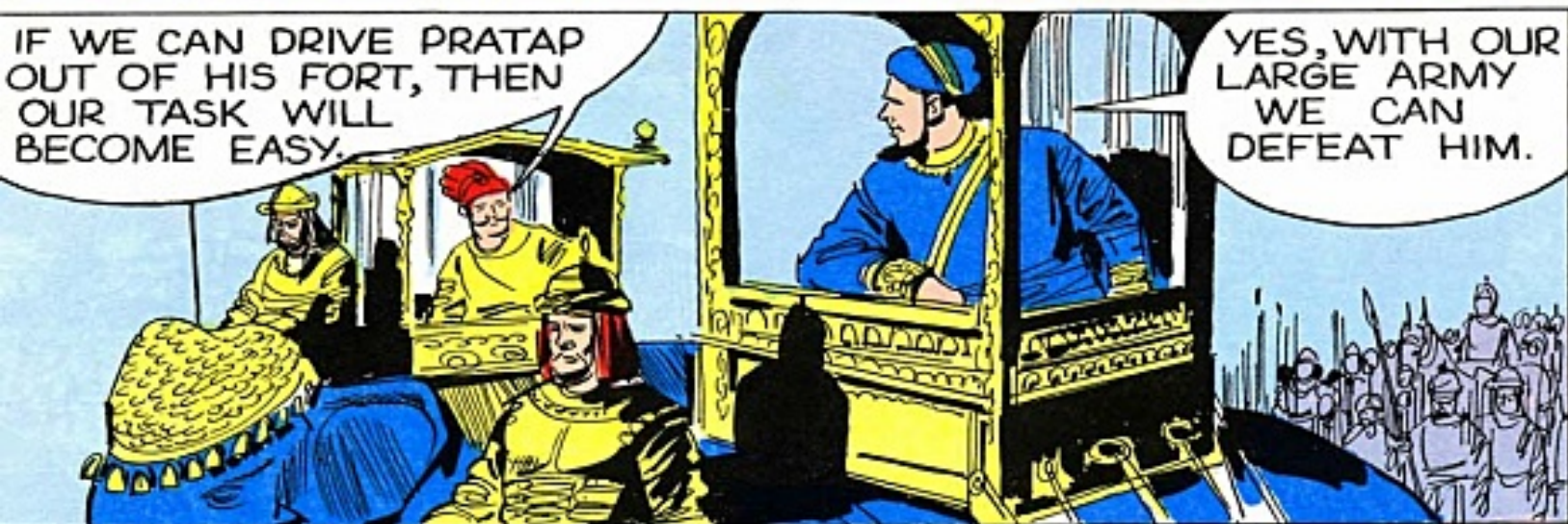
SOON AFTER MAN SINGH LEFT, RANA PRATAP ATTACKED A CAMP OF MUGHAL FORCES AND KILLED MANY OF THEM.



SOON MAN SINGH AND PRINCE SALIM SET OUT WITH A HUGE ARMY.



IF WE CAN DRIVE PRATAP OUT OF HIS FORT, THEN OUR TASK WILL BECOME EASY.



YES, WITH OUR LARGE ARMY WE CAN DEFEAT HIM.

FINALLY AKBAR'S FORCES REACHED THE FAMOUS BATTLE-GROUND, HALDI-GHATI, SITUATED IN A NARROW VALLEY.



NOW BEGINS THE TOUGHEST PART OF OUR JOB.

MEANWHILE IN PRATAP'S FORT-

RANAJI, OUR SCOUTS
HAVE BROUGHT NEWS
THAT THE ENEMY HAS
80,000 MEN WITH
CANNONS AND
GUNS.

AND WE HAVE
ONLY 22,000
SOLDIERS AND
NO GUNS.



I WISH I HAD
SOME CANNONS
AND MORE
SOLDIERS.



MAN SINGH ALSO RECEIVED VITAL INFORMATION.

COMMANDER MAN SINGH,
PRATAP HAS ONLY
22,000 SOLDIERS
AND THEY HAVE NO
GUNS.

THAT IS
GOOD NEWS.



THIS MAN PRATAP
MUST BE STUPID
TO CHALLENGE THE
MUGHAL EMPIRE
WITHOUT ENOUGH
SOLDIERS AND
GOOD WEAPONS.

BRAVE,
NOT STUPID!
HE IS A TRUE
RAJPUT AND...



...DON'T BE OVERCONFIDENT,
PRINCE. HUGE ARMIES AND
GOOD WEAPONS DO HELP
IN A BATTLE. BUT WHEN
IT COMES TO FIGHTING,
THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE
FOR COURAGE.





LET US STOP THIS
IDLE CHATTER
AND ATTACK.

WE
CAN'T.

WHY
NOT ?

BECAUSE THE WAY
TO PRATAP'S FORT
LIES THROUGH THAT
NARROW VALLEY
AND...



...PRATAP'S SOLDIERS ARE
WAITING THERE TO TRAP
US. WE WILL HAVE TO
WAIT FOR THEM TO
ATTACK FIRST.



AFTER A LONG WAIT -

WE CAN'T WAIT
INDEFINITELY.
LET US ATTACK
AT ONCE.



NO,
PRINCE
SALIM!



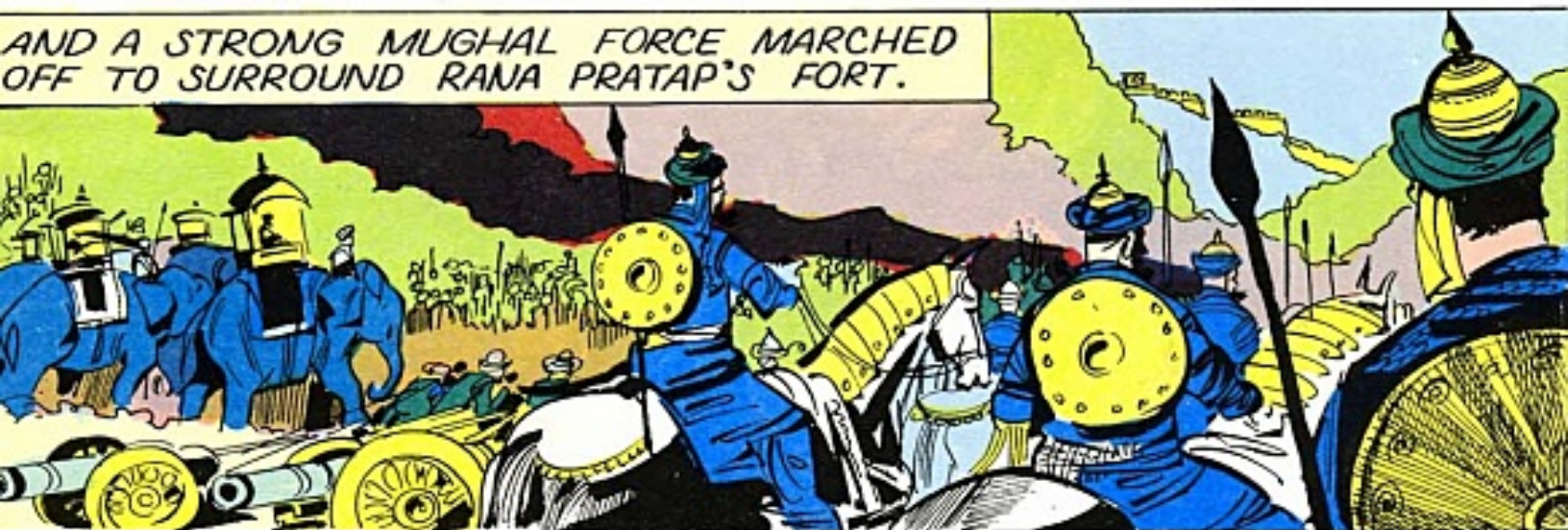
SIR, I HAVE FOUND
A LONG BUT EASY
PATH LEADING TO
PRATAP'S FORT.



GOOD, TAKE ENOUGH
SOLDIERS AND
ATTACK THE FORT
FROM THE REAR.

YES
SIR!

AND A STRONG MUGHAL FORCE MARCHED
OFF TO SURROUND RANA PRATAP'S FORT.



WHEN RANA PRATAP
HEARD ABOUT THIS NEW
TROOP MOVEMENT, HE
WAS WORRIED.

THE BEST
STRATEGY
WOULD HAVE
BEEN TO FIGHT
FROM THE FORT
BUT NOW WE
HAVE TO FACE
THEM IN
HALDI-GHATI.

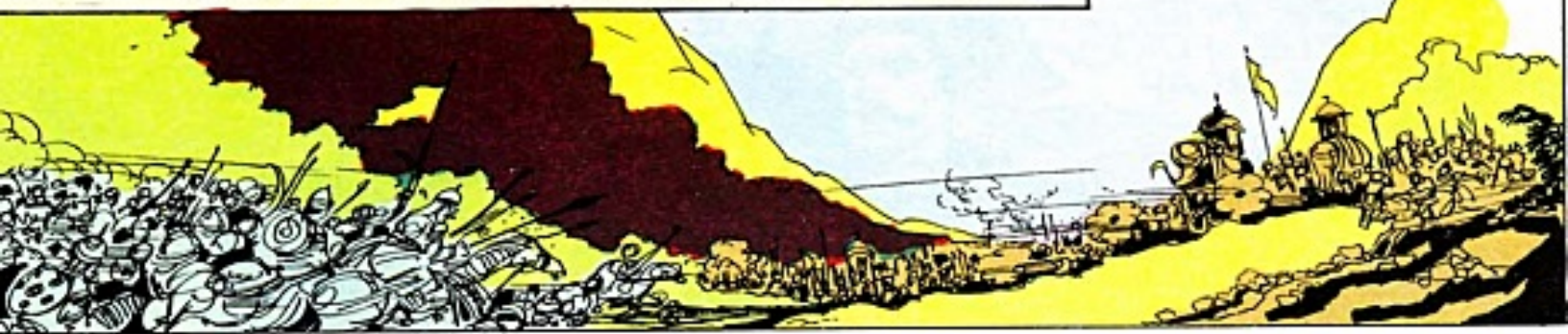


FINALLY IN THE VALLEY CALLED
HALDI-GHATI —

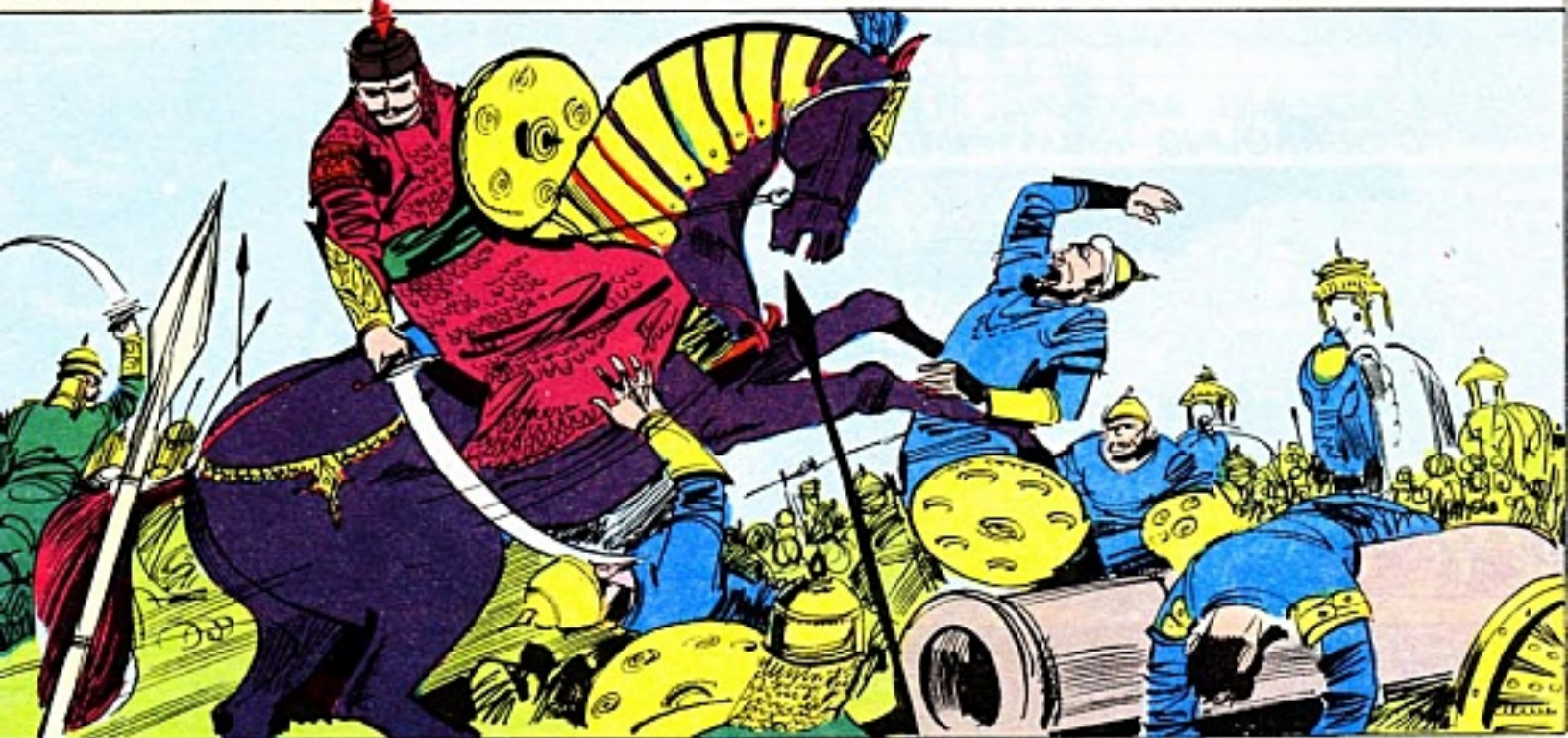
ATTACK!



PRATAP AND HIS SOLDIERS CHARGED FIERCELY.



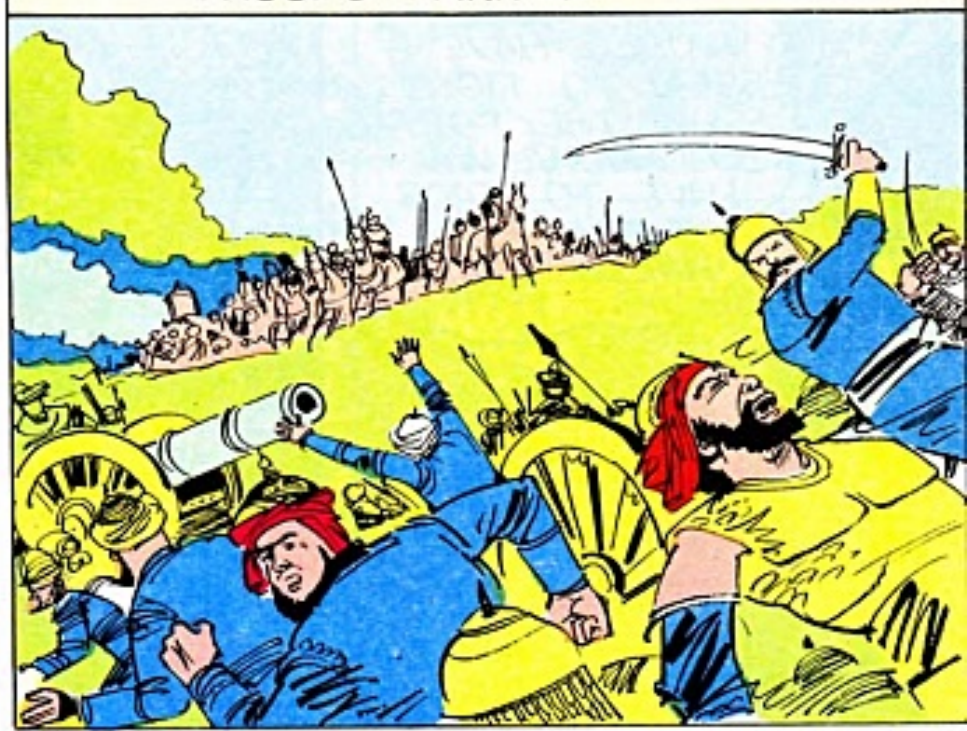
EVEN PRATAP'S FAITHFUL HORSE CHETAK PARTICIPATED IN THE BATTLE.



THE MUGHAL FORCES
SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES.



BUT JUST WHEN THE MUGHALS
STARTED TO LOSE, MORE OF THEIR
TROOPS ARRIVED.



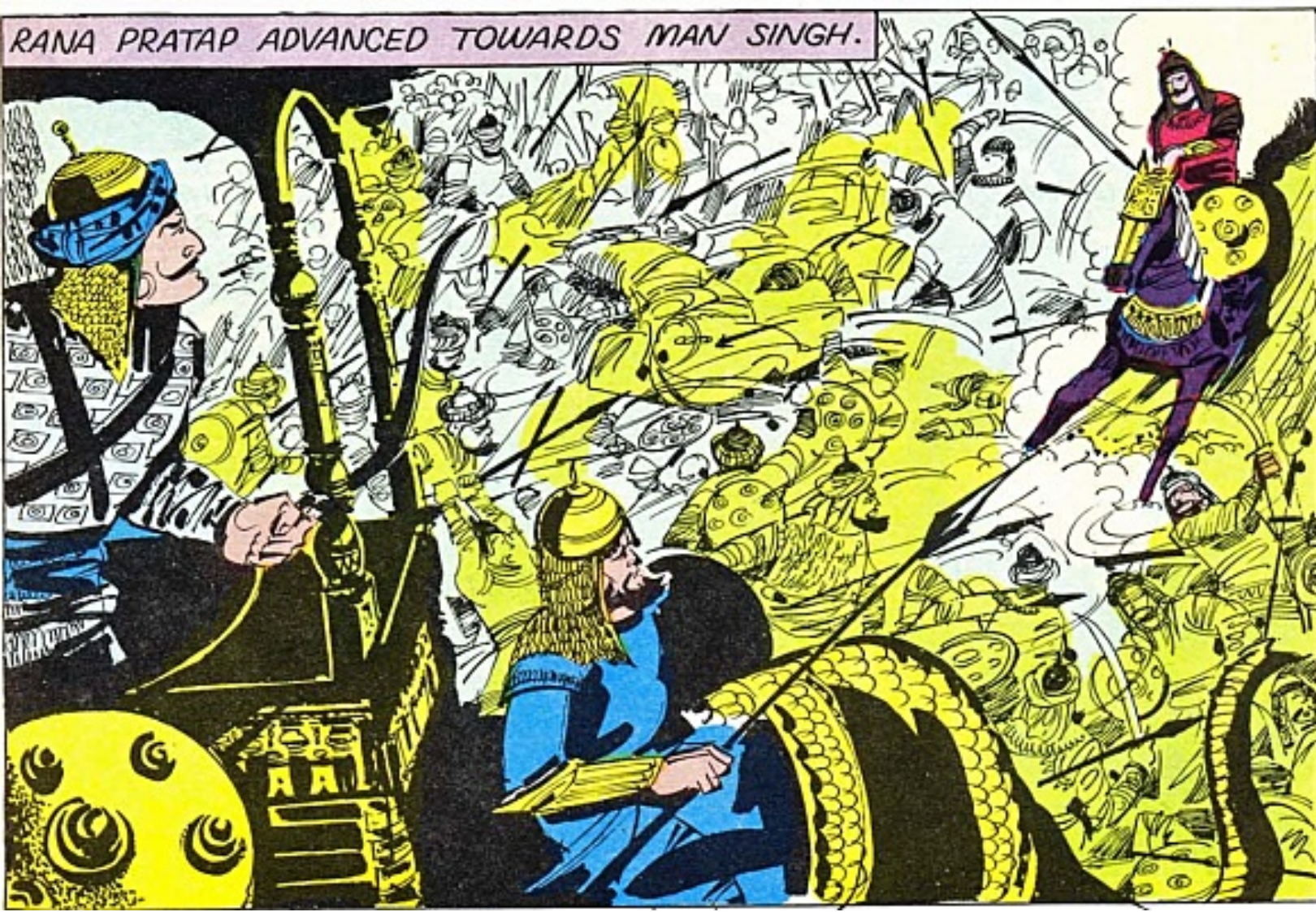
IN THE BITTER FIGHTING
THAT FOLLOWED,
RANA PRATAP LOST 15,000 MEN.



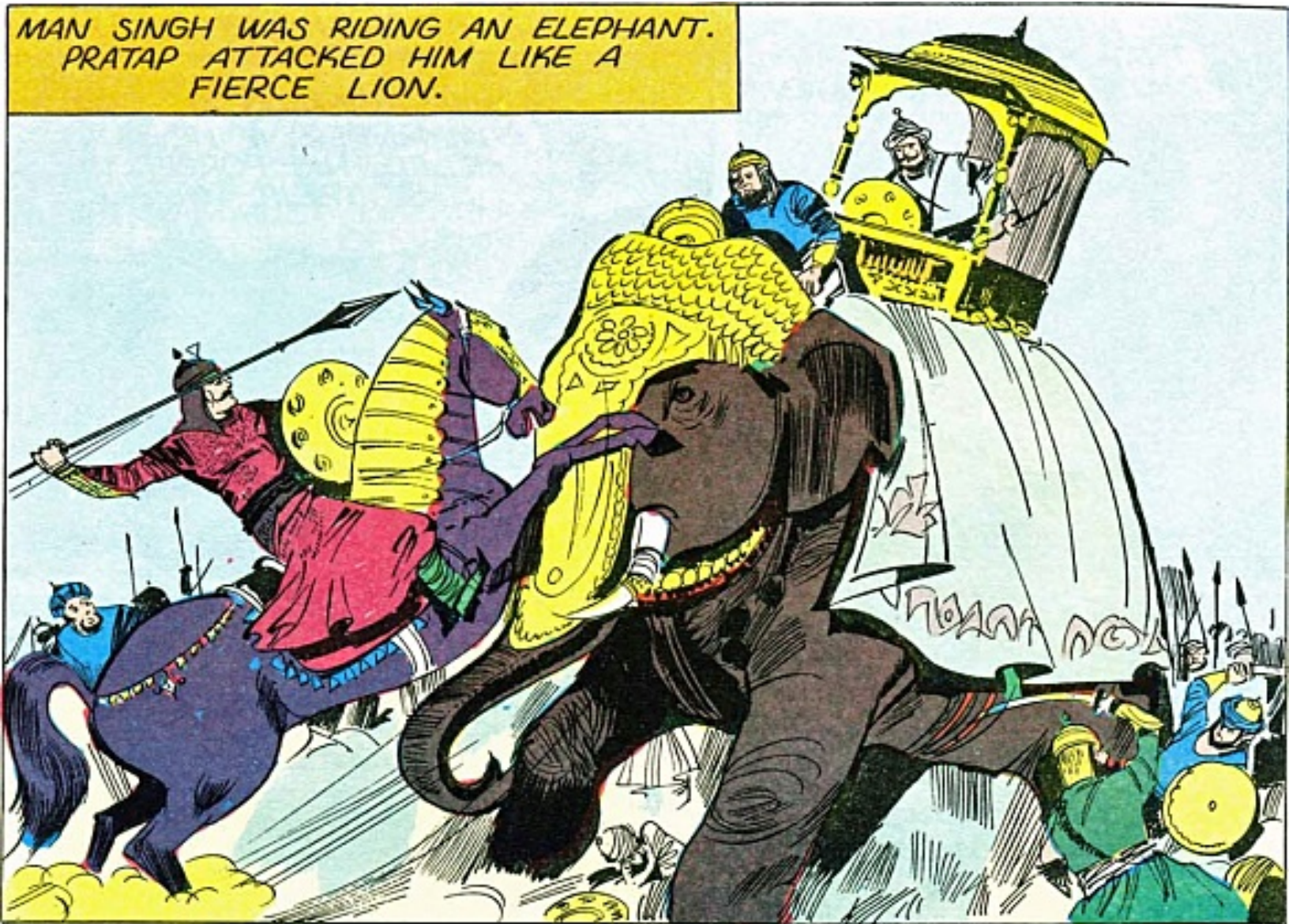
BUT THE BATTLE CONTINUED.



RANA PRATAP ADVANCED TOWARDS MAN SINGH.



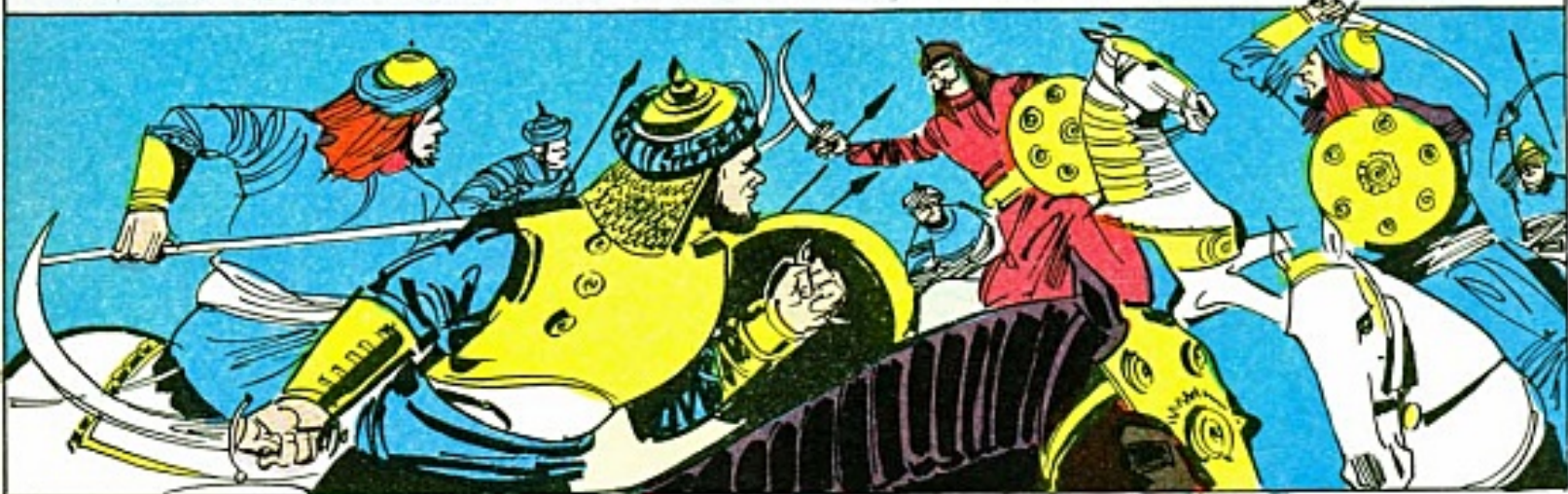
MAN SINGH WAS RIDING AN ELEPHANT.
PRATAP ATTACKED HIM LIKE A
FIERCE LION.



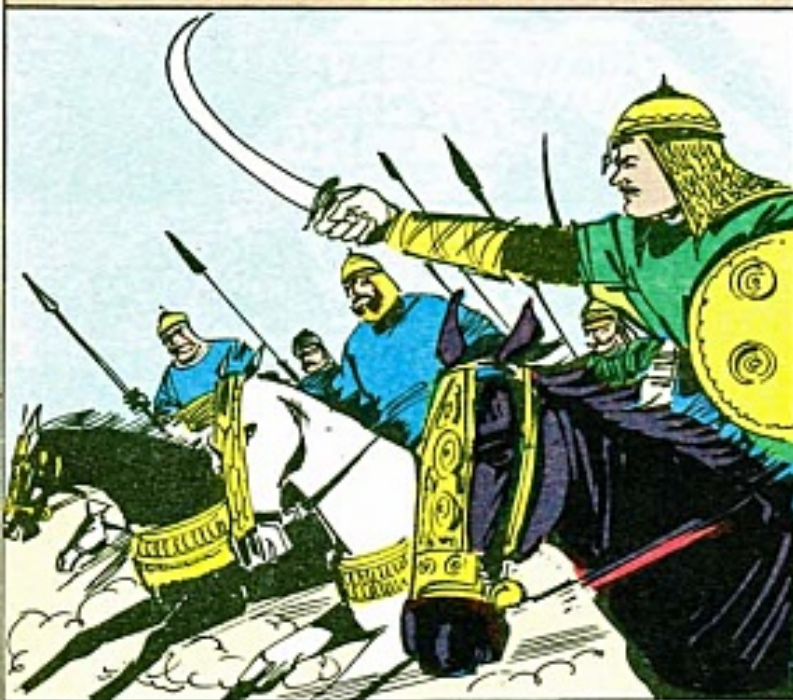
PRATAP THREW HIS SPEAR AT MAN SINGH, BUT JUST THEN THE
ELEPHANT MOVED AND PRATAP MISSED HIS MARK. MAN SINGH WAS
SAVED.



MEANWHILE PRATAP WAS SURROUNDED BY ENEMY SOLDIERS.



FINDING THEIR LEADER IN DANGER, PRATAP'S FRIEND, MANA AND A FEW SOLDIERS RUSHED TO HIS RESCUE.



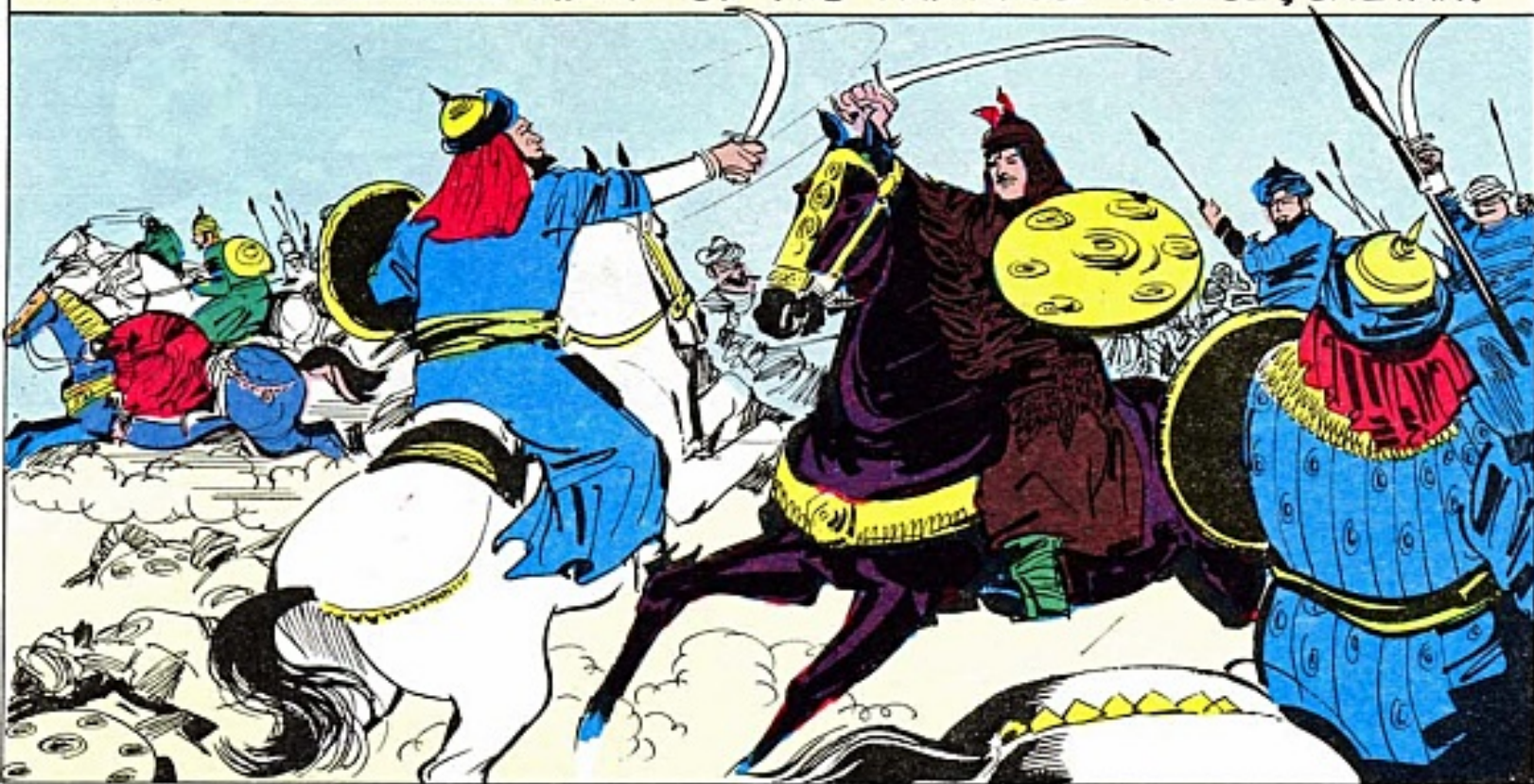
OUR RANA IS WOUNDED. I MUST SAVE HIM.



TO SAVE PRATAP, MANA PLACED PRATAP'S HELMET ON HIS OWN HEAD.



THE MUGHAL SOLDIERS WERE FOOLED. THEY ATTACKED MANA, MISTAKING HIM FOR PRATAP. WHILE MANA FACED THE ENEMY, PRATAP WAS CARRIED AWAY BY HIS FAITHFUL HORSE, CHETAK.



SOME RAJPUT SOLDIERS RODE WITH CHETAK TO PROTECT THE UNCONSCIOUS RANA.



THE WOUNDED PRATAP WAS TAKEN TO A CAVE IN THE JUNGLES.



THOUGH PRATAP SURVIVED, HIS FAMILY HAD A HARD TIME. FOR SEVERAL DAYS THEY HAD NOTHING TO EAT BUT WILD BERRIES AND ROOTS.



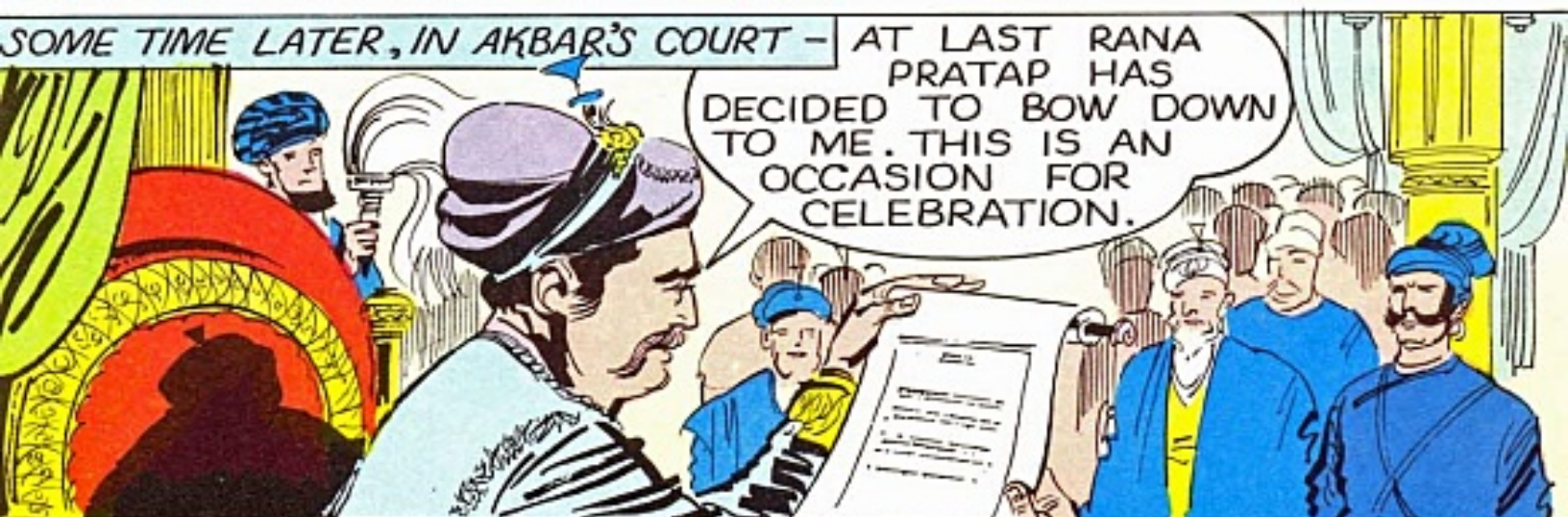
ONE DAY, WHEN PRATAP'S SON, AMAR SINGH, WAS EATING A DRY CHAPATI ...



PRATAP'S DAUGHTER, WHO GAVE HER CHAPATI TO HER BROTHER, FAINTED DUE TO HUNGER.



SOME TIME LATER, IN AKBAR'S COURT - AT LAST RANA PRATAP HAS DECIDED TO BOW DOWN TO ME. THIS IS AN OCCASION FOR CELEBRATION.



PRITHVIRAJ, A RAJPUT POET IN AKBAR'S COURT, WAS A SECRET ADMIRER OF PRATAP. HE DID NOT LIKE THE NEWS.



SO THE LAST HOPE OF FREEDOM IS ALSO LOST. I MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

AND POET PRITHVIRAJ SENT A LETTER TO RANA PRATAP,

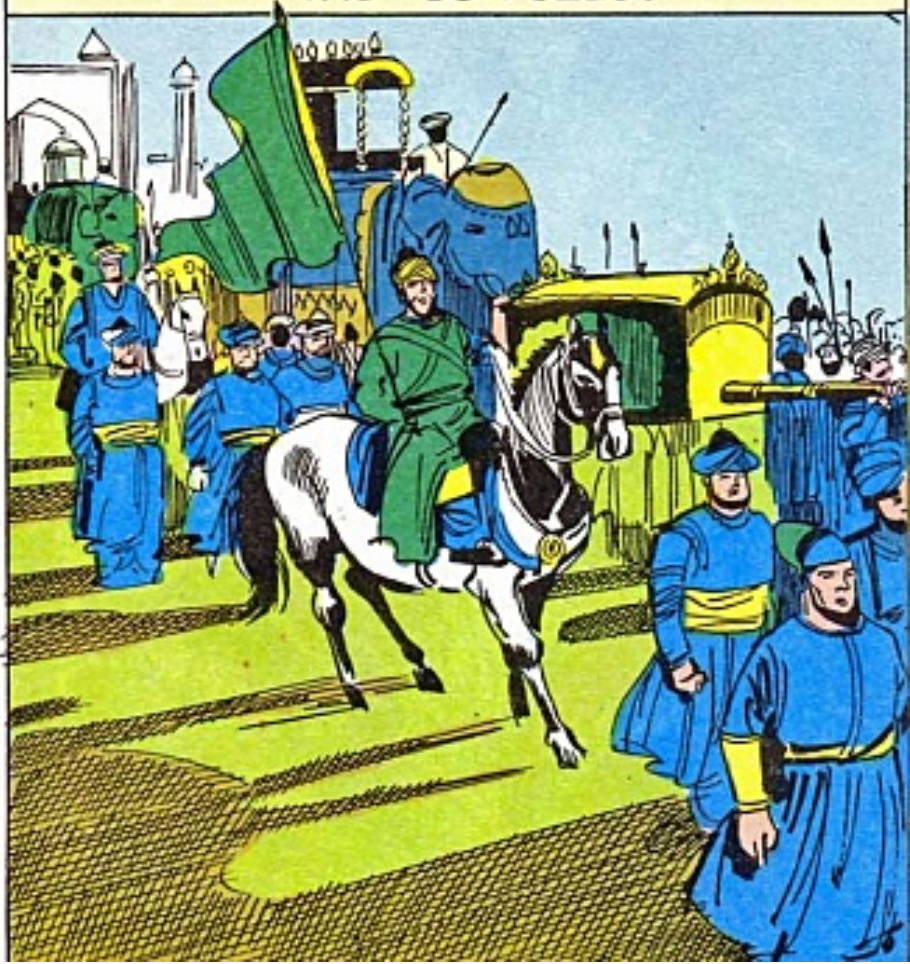
You alone can preserve the honour of the Rajputs. The sun would sooner rise in the west than have you address Akbar as your Lord.



INSPIRING WORDS! I MUST WRITE TO HIM THAT THE SUN WILL CONTINUE TO RISE IN THE EAST. I WILL NEVER BOW BEFORE AKBAR.



UNAWARE OF PRITHVIRAJ'S LETTER, AKBAR SENT A LARGE BAND OF SOLDIERS TO ESCORT PRATAP FROM THE JUNGLES.



WHEN RANA PRATAP REFUSED TO GO WITH THEM, THE SOLDIERS
ATTACKED HIM.



SOON ALL THE RAJPUT SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND PRATAP WAS
ABOUT TO BE CAPTURED, WHEN A BAND OF BHIL TRIBALS
ATTACKED THE MUGHALS.



THE BHILS RESCUED PRATAP AND HIS FAMILY AND CARRIED THEM TO THEIR VILLAGE. PRATAP WAS SAD OVER THE LOSS OF HIS SOLDIERS.

EVERYTHING IS FINISHED NOW. I CAN'T LIBERATE MY MOTHER-LAND.

YOU SHOULDN'T LOSE HEART, RANAJI. YOU ARE OUR ONLY HOPE.



BUT WITHOUT AN ARMY HOW CAN I FACE THE MUGHALS ?

I WILL COLLECT MY TRIBESMEN FROM THE JUNGLE AND THEN YOU CAN FIGHT AGAIN.



BUT FOR RAISING AN ARMY WE NEED MONEY AND I HAVE NONE.



ONE DAY -

I CAN'T REMAIN A BURDEN ON YOU ANY MORE. I SHALL GO AWAY FROM HERE.

YOU ARE NOT A BURDEN, RANAJI.



JUST THEN A MESSENGER
ARRIVED.

RANAJI, A PERSON
CALLED BHAMA SHAH
WANTS TO MEET
YOU.

BRING
HIM
IN.

RANAJI, I HEARD
THAT YOU NEED
MONEY. MY
WEALTH
IS AT YOUR
DISPOSAL.

BUT I CAN'T
ACCEPT YOUR
PERSONAL
PROPERTY.

NOTHING REMAINS
PERSONAL WHEN OUR
COUNTRY IS IN TROUBLE
NOW EVERY-
THING
BELONGS
TO
THE
COUNTRY.

BHAMA SHAH WAS A
PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN OF CHITTOR.

WITH THE HELP OF THIS HUGE WEALTH, PRATAP RAISED A POWERFUL
ARMY OF BHILS.

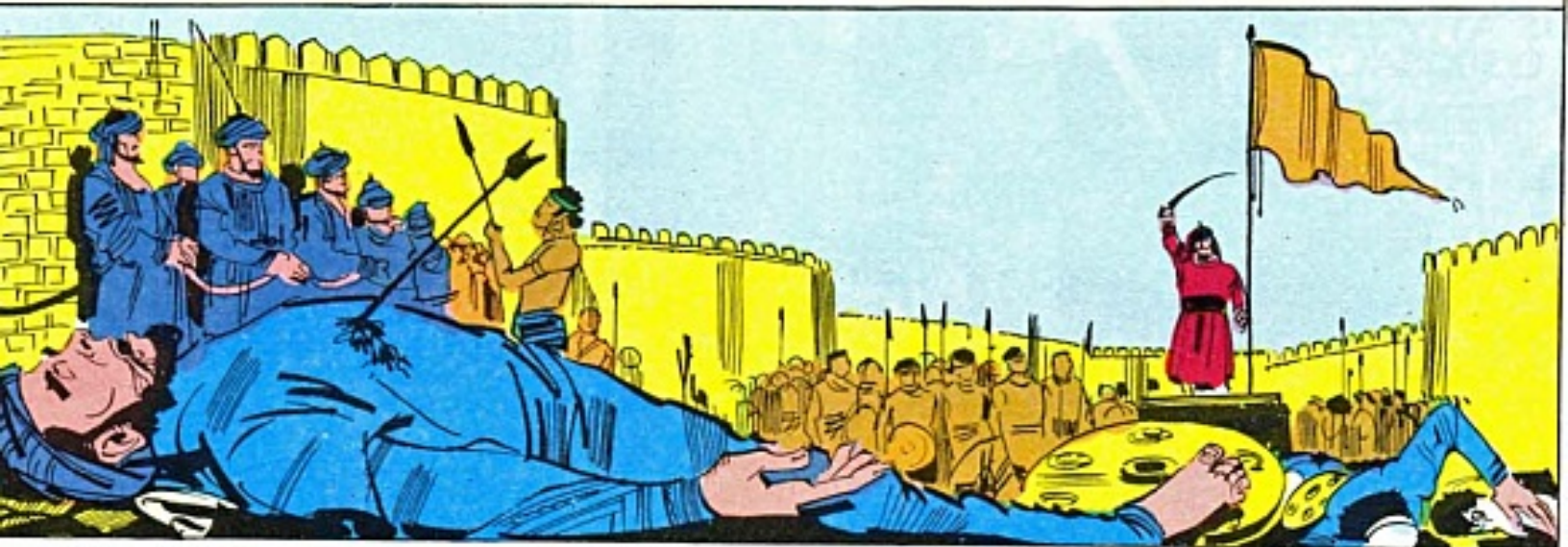
NOW, WE ARE
PREPARED TO FIGHT
THE MUGHALS
AGAIN.

JAI CHANDI! HAR
HAR MAHADEV!

PRATAP LED THE BRAVE BHILS TO MANY VICTORIES.



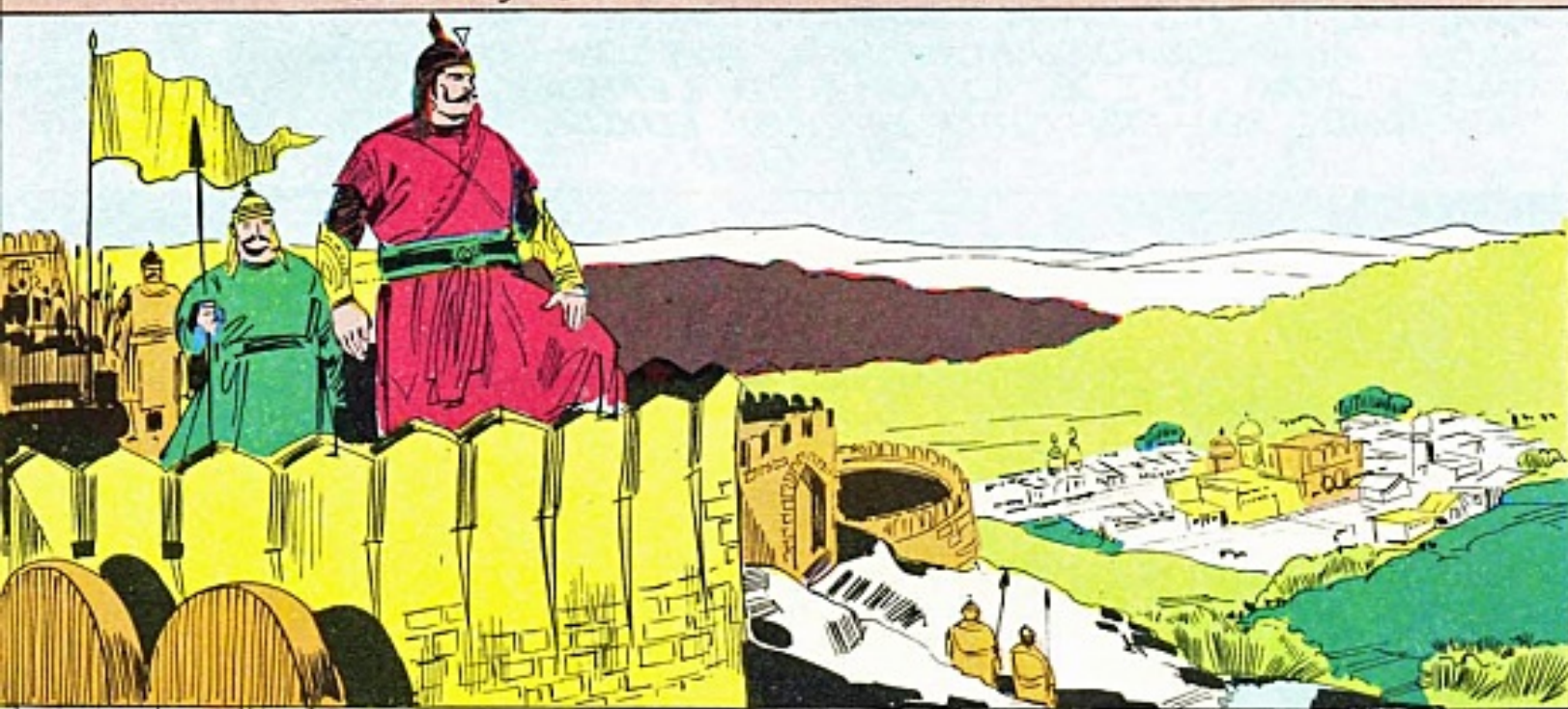
THE FORT OF PHINSAHRA WAS WON FROM THE MUGHALS.



THEN PRATAP SWIFTLY ATTACKED OTHER NEARBY FORTS UNDER MUGHAL OCCUPATION.



FINALLY RANA PRATAP MANAGED TO LIBERATE THE AREAS OF DEVAR, UDAIPUR AND KOMALMIR.



BUT CHITTOR WAS STILL OCCUPIED BY THE MUGHALS. PRATAP HAD FOUGHT RELENTLESSLY FOR TWENTY YEARS. NOW HE WAS VERY SICK.



SOON YOU WOULD BE HEALTHY AGAIN, RANAJI!

NO, I KNOW THAT MY END HAS COME.



HOW UNLUCKY I AM THAT I COULD NOT LIBERATE MY MOTHER-LAND, CHITTOR.

THUS WITH HIS DREAM ONLY PARTIALLY FULFILLED, RANA PRATAP PASSED AWAY. TILL THE LAST DAY OF HIS LIFE, HE STRICTLY ADHERED TO HIS OATH. EVEN WHEN HE WAS SICK, HE DID NOT SLEEP ON A COMFORTABLE BED, BUT ON THE GROUND. THUS RANA PRATAP SET AN EXAMPLE TO LEADERS OF ALL TIMES THAT THEY HAD NO RIGHT TO LIVE IN LUXURY WHEN THE COUNTRY SUFFERED.



AMAR
CHITRA
KATHA

Rana Sanga





Illustrated Classics From India

Rana Sanga

In the 8th Century A.D., Bappa Rawal drove out the invaders from Rajasthan and united several small kingdoms into one. Rana Sanga was his worthy successor. Early in the 16th century, when a vast area of India was under the domination of foreign rulers, he made a valiant attempt to defeat them.

This indefatigable fighter sustained eight battle-scars on his body and had lost one arm and one eye. He fought a decisive battle against Babar in 1527 at Khanwa and might have won it, but for the betrayal by his trusted commander Shiladitya Sanga. Defeated in battle, he was obliged to retreat, but he made a solemn vow never to re-enter Mewar until he had avenged his humiliation. Had his life been spared, he would have redeemed the pledge, but he did not live to fulfil it. His tenacity of purpose, however, inspired many of his successors including Rana Pratap.

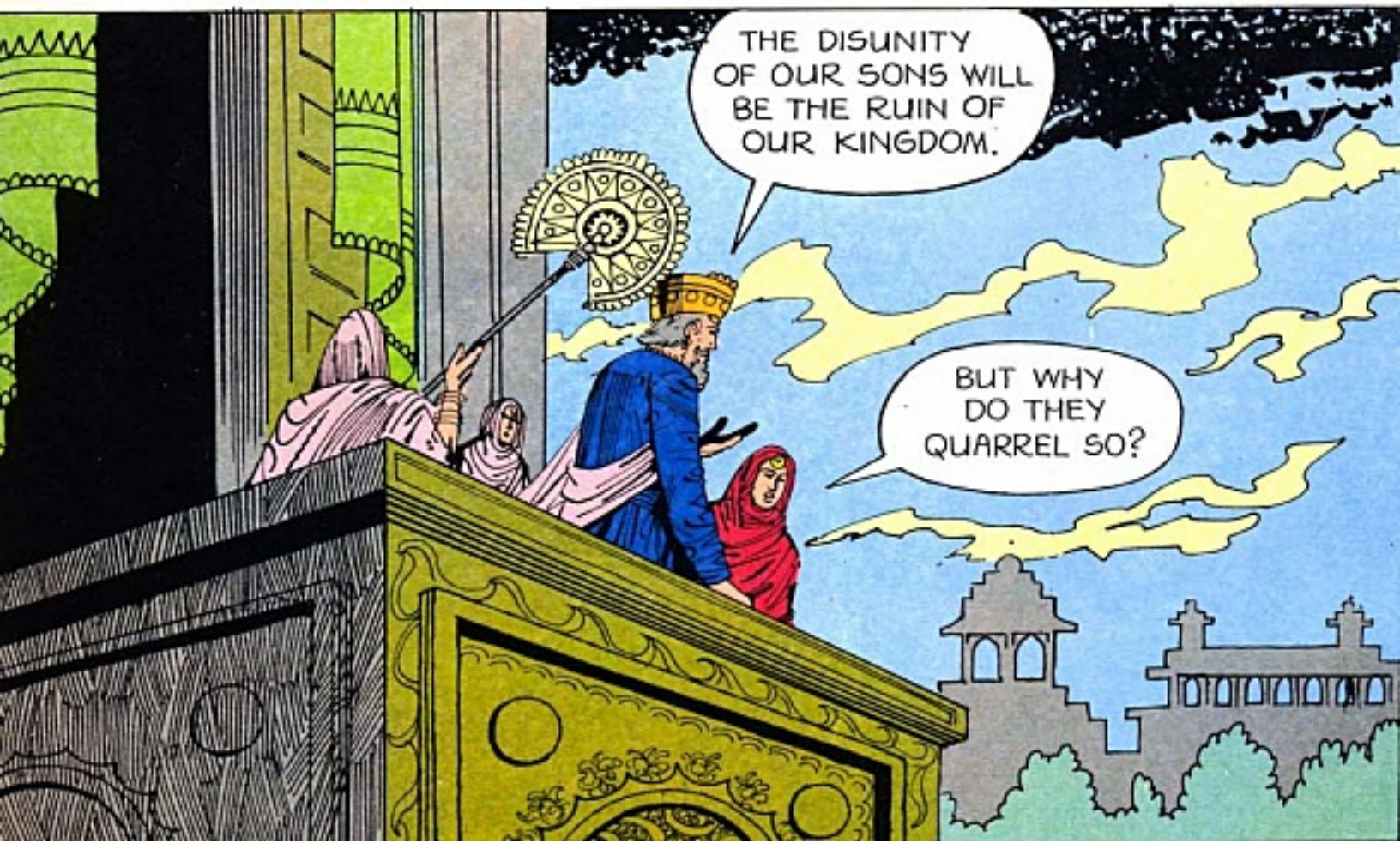
In the following pages is narrated the story of the valour of this iron man of India that is based on Tod's Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan.

Script: Rajendra Sanjay Illustrations: Ram Waeerkar Cover :C.M.Vitankar

RANA SANGA



RANA RAIMAL, WHO RULED MEWAR IN THE EARLY HALF OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY, WAS A VALIANT KING WHO UPHELD THE GLORIOUS TRADITIONS OF HIS LAND. HIS THREE SONS, SANGA, PRITHVIRAJ AND JAIMAL, HOWEVER, WERE FOR EVER INVOLVED IN PETTY QUARRELS WITH ONE ANOTHER.



EACH OF THEM
WANTS TO BE
MY SUCCESSOR.

BUT SANGA, THE
ELDEST, HAS
THE RIGHT TO
THE THRONE.



THAT'S TRUE. THE
PRINCES MIGHT HAVE
ACCEPTED IT BUT FOR
YOUR BROTHER, SURAJ-
MAL. HE SETS THEM
AGAINST ONE
ANOTHER.

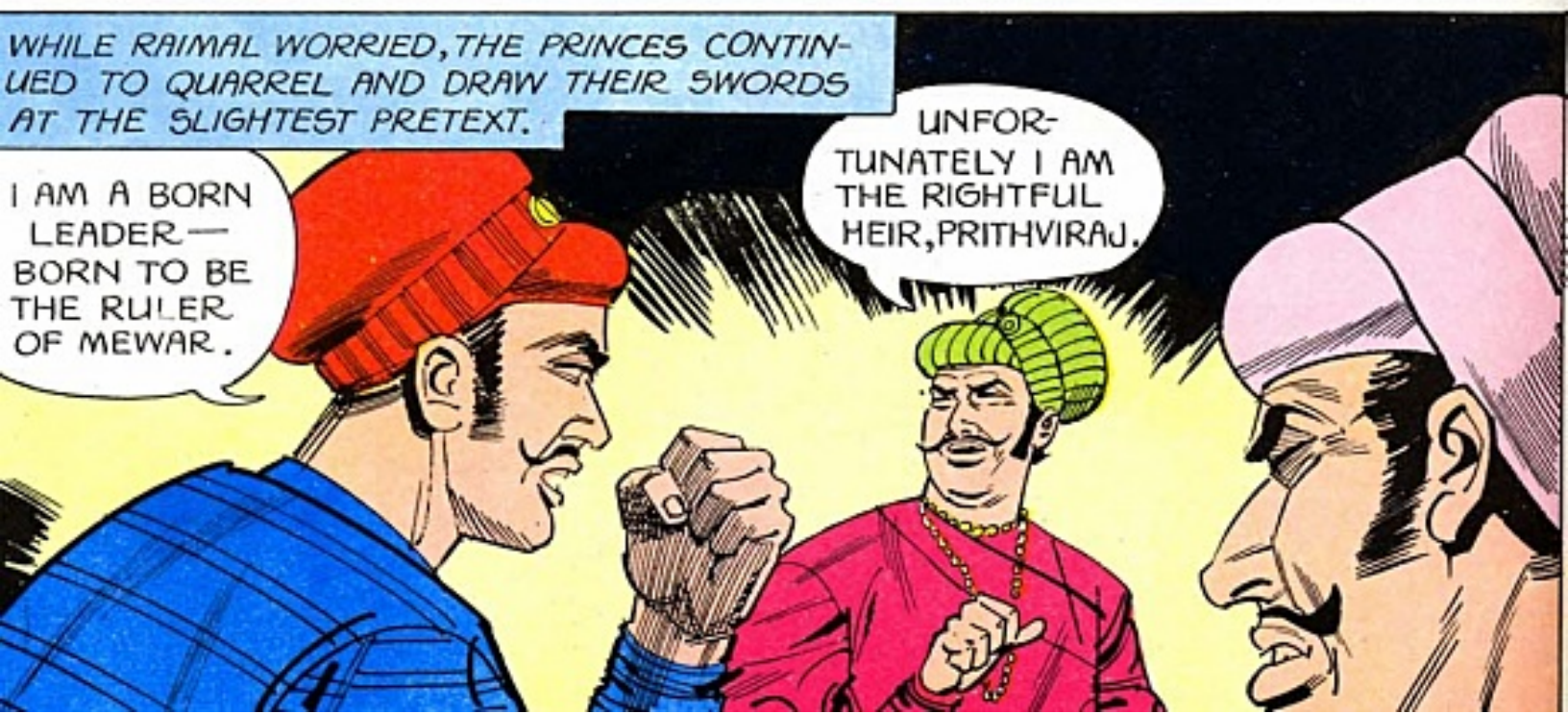
I CAN'T
UNDERSTAND
WHY HE
DOES IT.



WHILE RAIMAL WORRIED, THE PRINCES CONTINUED TO QUARREL AND DRAW THEIR SWORDS AT THE SLIGHTEST PRETEXT.

I AM A BORN
LEADER—
BORN TO BE
THE RULER
OF MEWAR.

UNFOR-
TUNATELY I AM
THE RIGHTFUL
HEIR, PRITHVIRAJ.



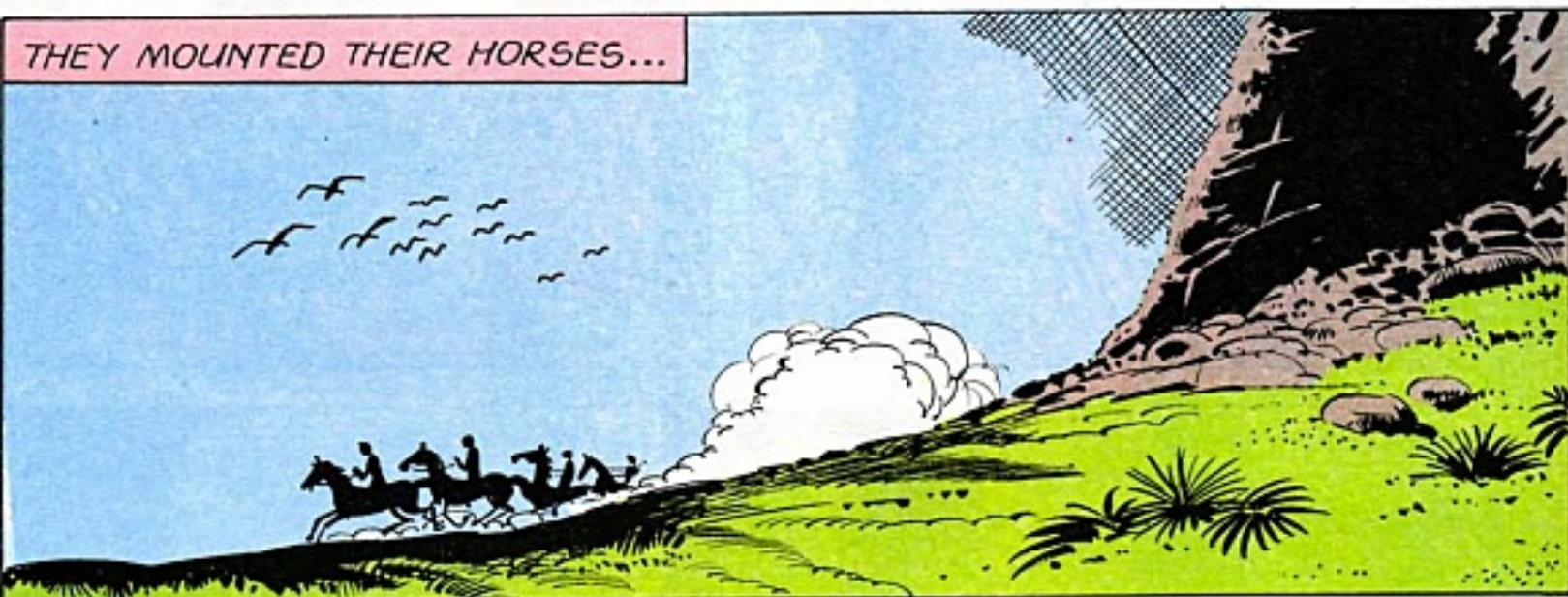


AS SANGA WAS ABOUT TO REPLY—

LET THE ORACLE, CHARANI
DEVI, GUIDE US. HER
PREDICTIONS NEVER
GO WRONG.

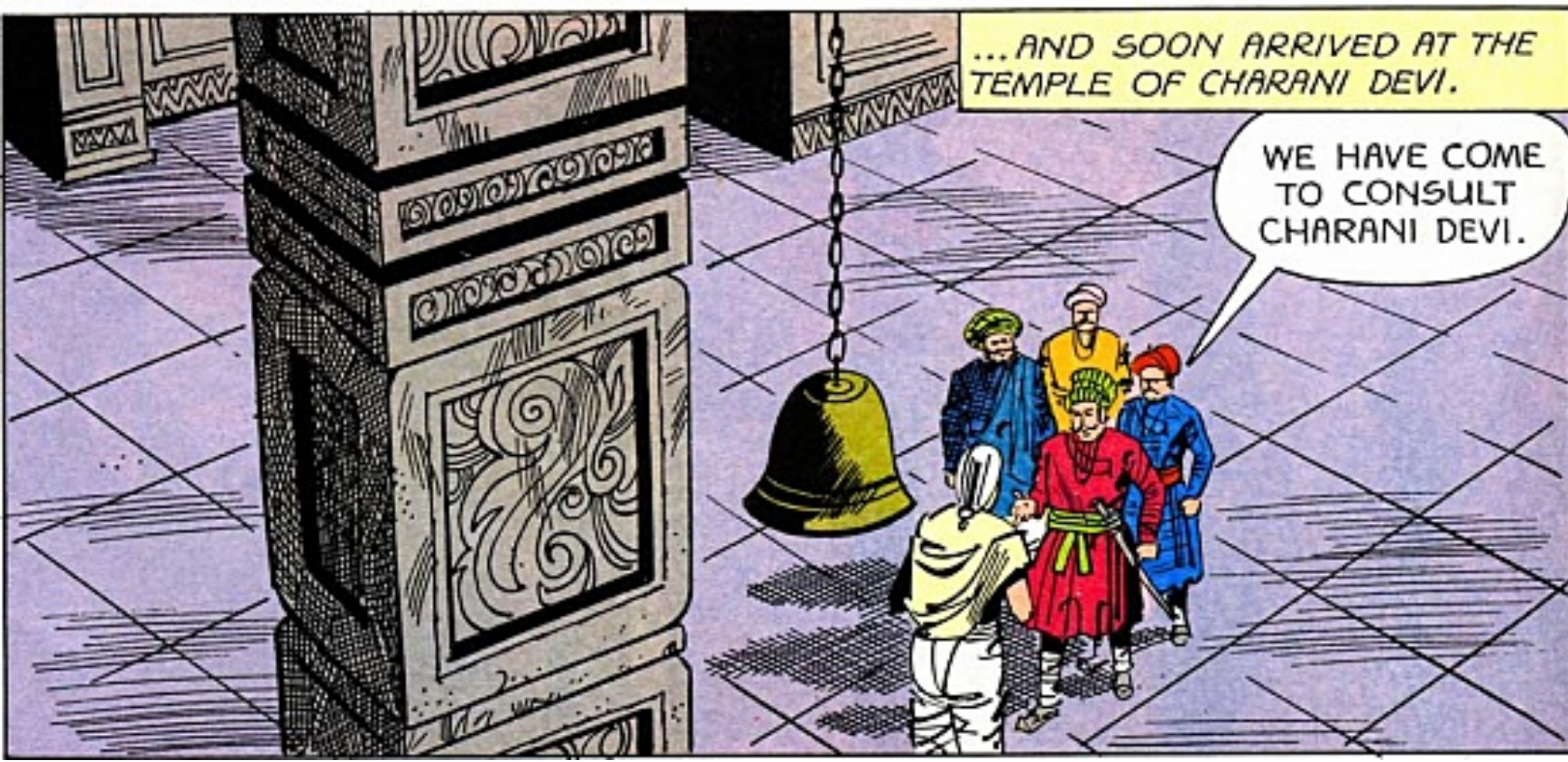


THEY MOUNTED THEIR HORSES...



...AND SOON ARRIVED AT THE
TEMPLE OF CHARANI DEVI.

WE HAVE COME
TO CONSULT
CHARANI DEVI.





WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

WE'D LIKE TO KNOW WHICH OF US IS DESTINED TO RULE MEWAR.



PLEASE SIT DOWN. I WILL PUT THE QUESTION TO THE DEVI. SHE WILL GIVE YOU THE ANSWER THROUGH HER ATTENDANT.



SANGA, IF THE PREDICTION IS NOT IN YOUR FAVOUR, WHAT WILL YOU DO?

THE CALM AND PEACE OF THE TEMPLE HAD A STRANGE EFFECT ON SANGA. HE NO LONGER WANTED TO FIGHT WITH HIS BROTHERS.

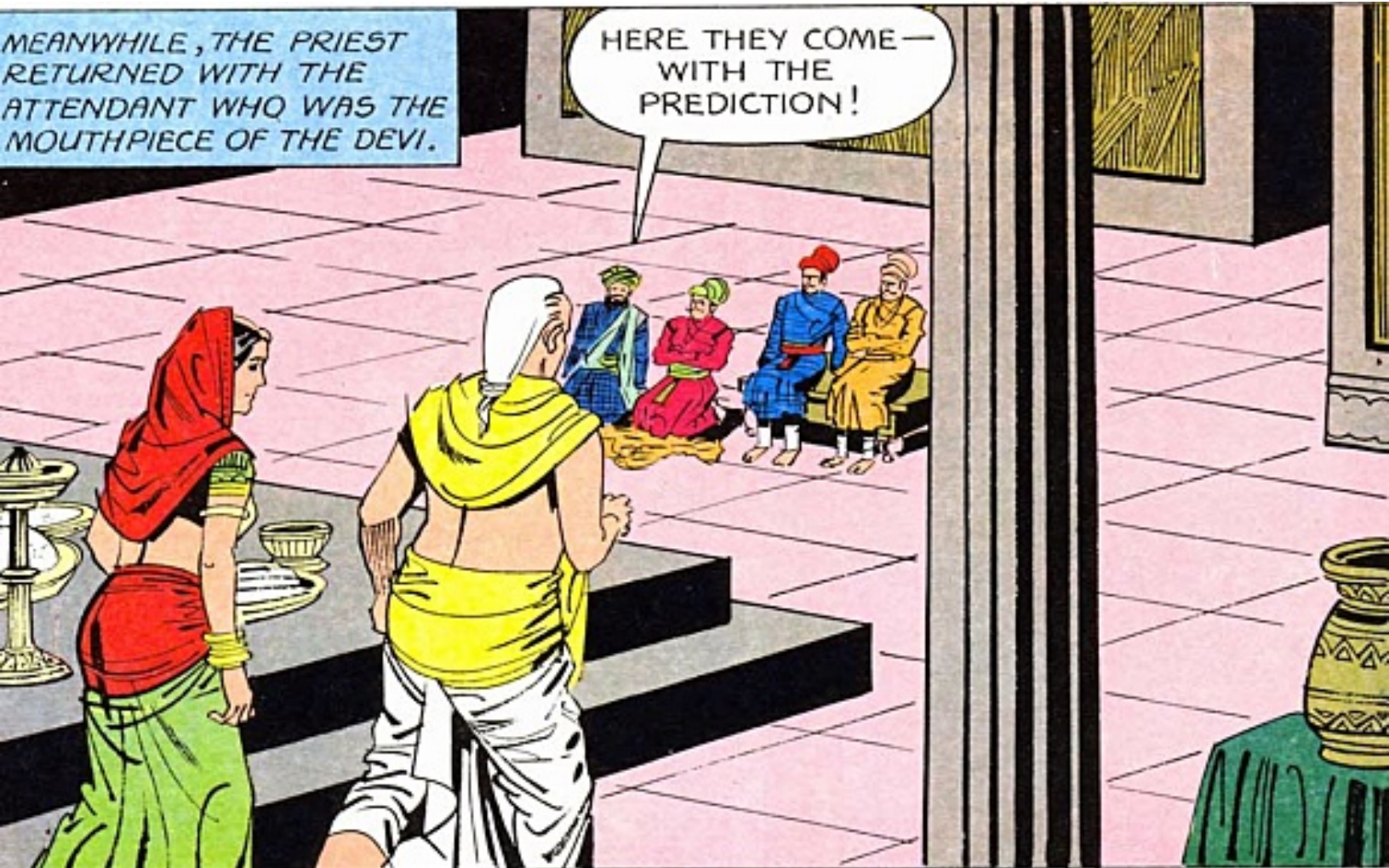
I WILL GO AWAY AND ESTABLISH A NEW KINGDOM ELSEWHERE, IF MEWAR IS NOT DESTINED TO BE MINE.

AND IF IT IS, YOU WILL HAVE TO KILL ME FIRST.



MEANWHILE, THE PRIEST
RETURNED WITH THE
ATTENDANT WHO WAS THE
MOUTHPIECE OF THE DEVI.

HERE THEY COME—
WITH THE
PREDICTION!



THE ATTENDANT POINTED TO THE TIGER
SKIN ON WHICH SANGA WAS SITTING
AND SURAJMAL WAS RESTING A KNEE.

THAT MEANS I AM TO RULE
THE KINGDOM...

...OF WHICH
I WILL
ENJOY A
SHARE.



SO THAT WAS
THE JACKAL'S
GAME!



BRISTLING WITH RAGE, PRITHVIRAJ DREW HIS SWORD AND CHARGED AT SANGA.

I WILL KILL THE LION FIRST AND THEN TACKLE THE JACKAL.



BUT SURAJMAL WHO LEAPT FORWARD TO PARRY THE THRUST...



...RECEIVED THE BLOW.



WHEN SANGA SAW THIS —

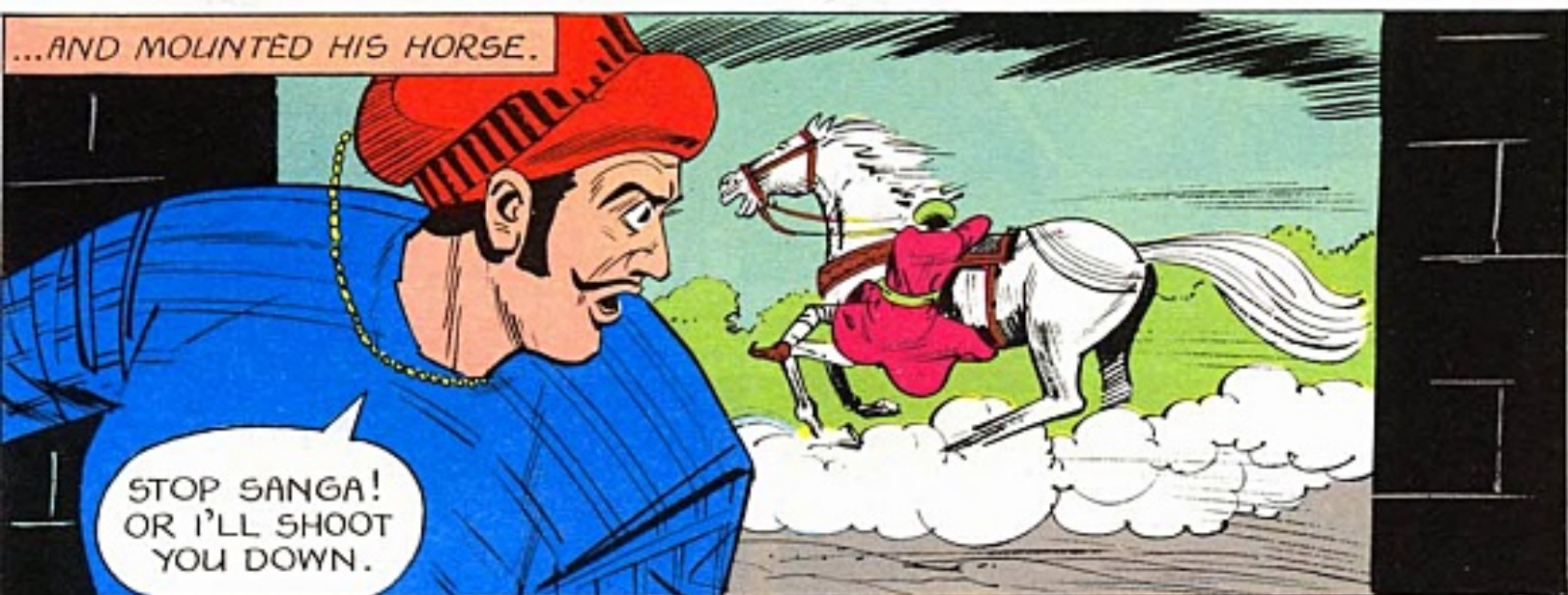
I WILL NOT INVOLVE MYSELF IN A FIGHT WITH MY BROTHER— AND CERTAINLY NOT IN THIS TEMPLE.



HE RAN OUT...



...AND MOUNTED HIS HORSE.



PRITHVIRAJ PULLED OUT AN ARROW AND TOOK AIM.



THE ARROW HIT SANGA IN ONE EYE, BLINDING IT FOR LIFE.



AS PRITHVIRAJ WAS ABOUT TO RUN UP TO SANGA AND FINISH HIM —

PRITHVIRAJ!
STOP IT! FOR
GOD'S SAKE!

THEN
I WILL TAKE
CARE OF YOU
FIRST, UNCLE!

WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY SANGA MANAGED TO REMOUNT HIS HORSE. AS HE WAS ABOUT TO RIDE AWAY —

JAIMAL! GO
AFTER SANGA!
DON'T LET HIM
GET AWAY
ALIVE!

DON'T
WORRY,
PRITHVIRAJ.
I'LL FINISH
HIM.

MEANWHILE —

PRITHVIRAJ'S
ATTENTION IS
DIVERTED. I'D
BETTER ESCAPE.





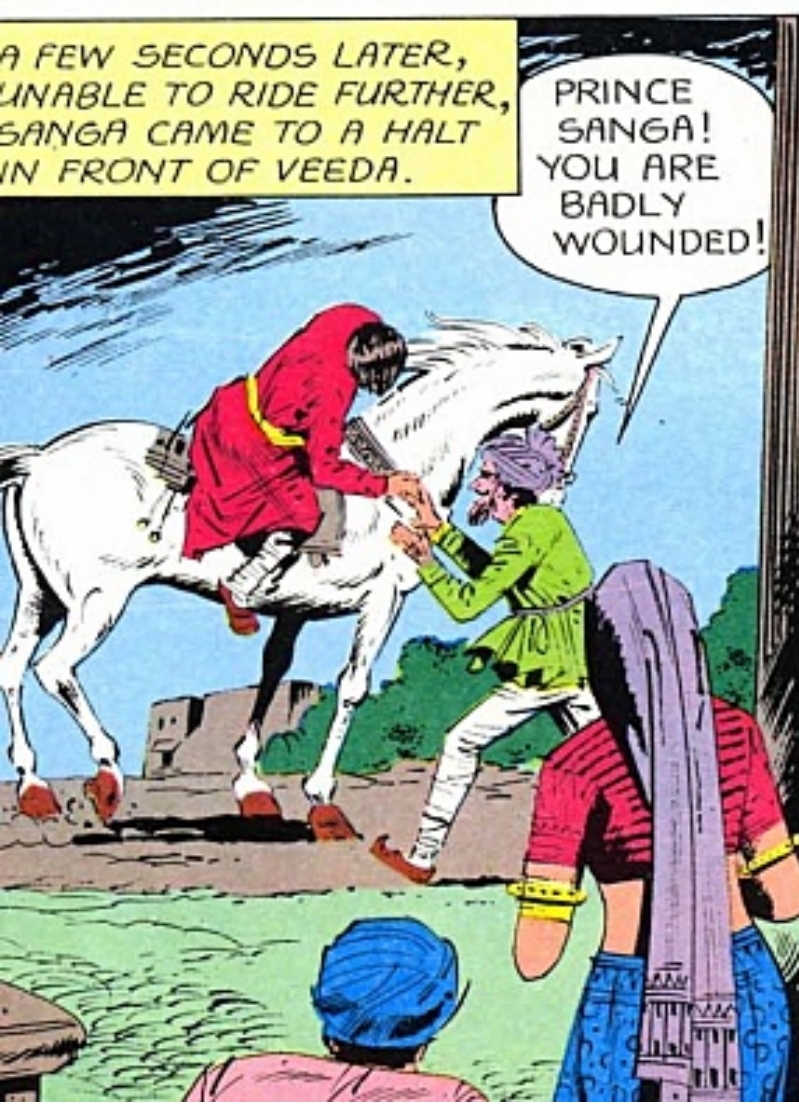
SANGA, STOP!
I SAY STOP.

AT THAT MOMENT, VEEDA, A TRADESMAN WHO WAS PREPARING TO GO OUT OF MEWAR, WAS TAKING LEAVE OF HIS FAMILY. SUDDENLY—



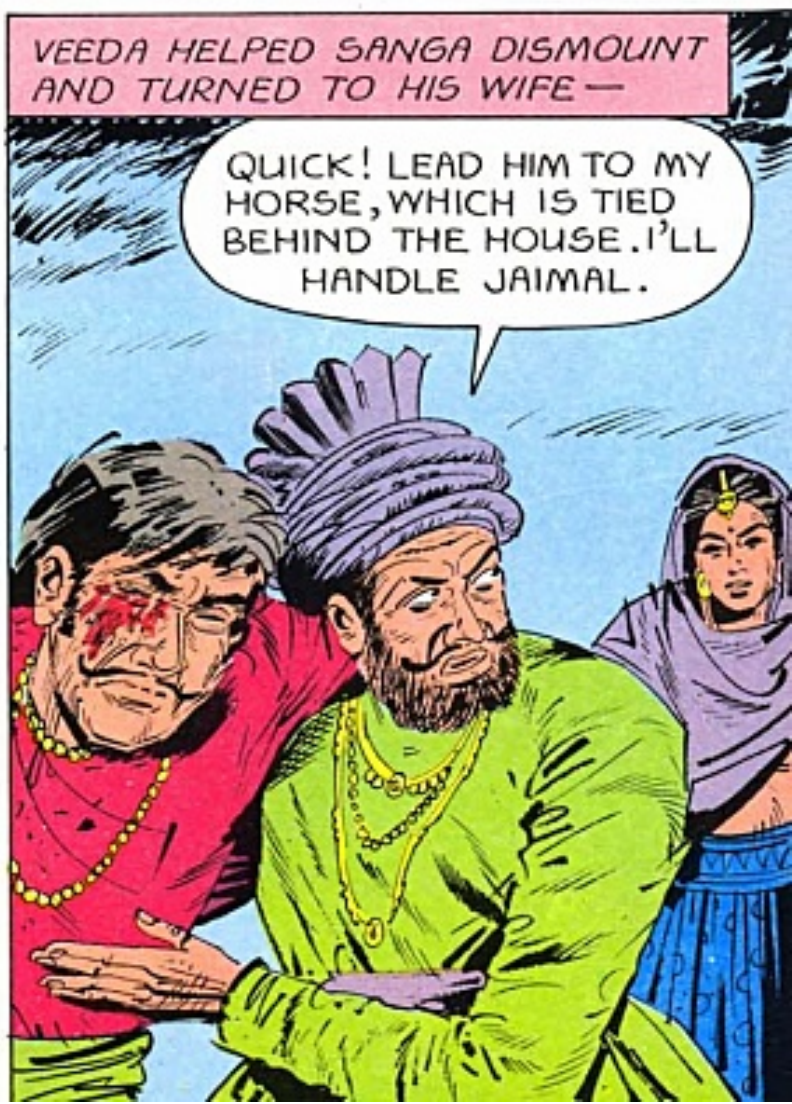
THE
PRINCES! THEY
ARE COMING
THIS WAY.

A FEW SECONDS LATER,
UNABLE TO RIDE FURTHER,
SANGA CAME TO A HALT
IN FRONT OF VEEDA.



PRINCE
SANGA!
YOU ARE
BADLY
WOUNDED!

VEEDA HELPED SANGA DISMOUNT
AND TURNED TO HIS WIFE —

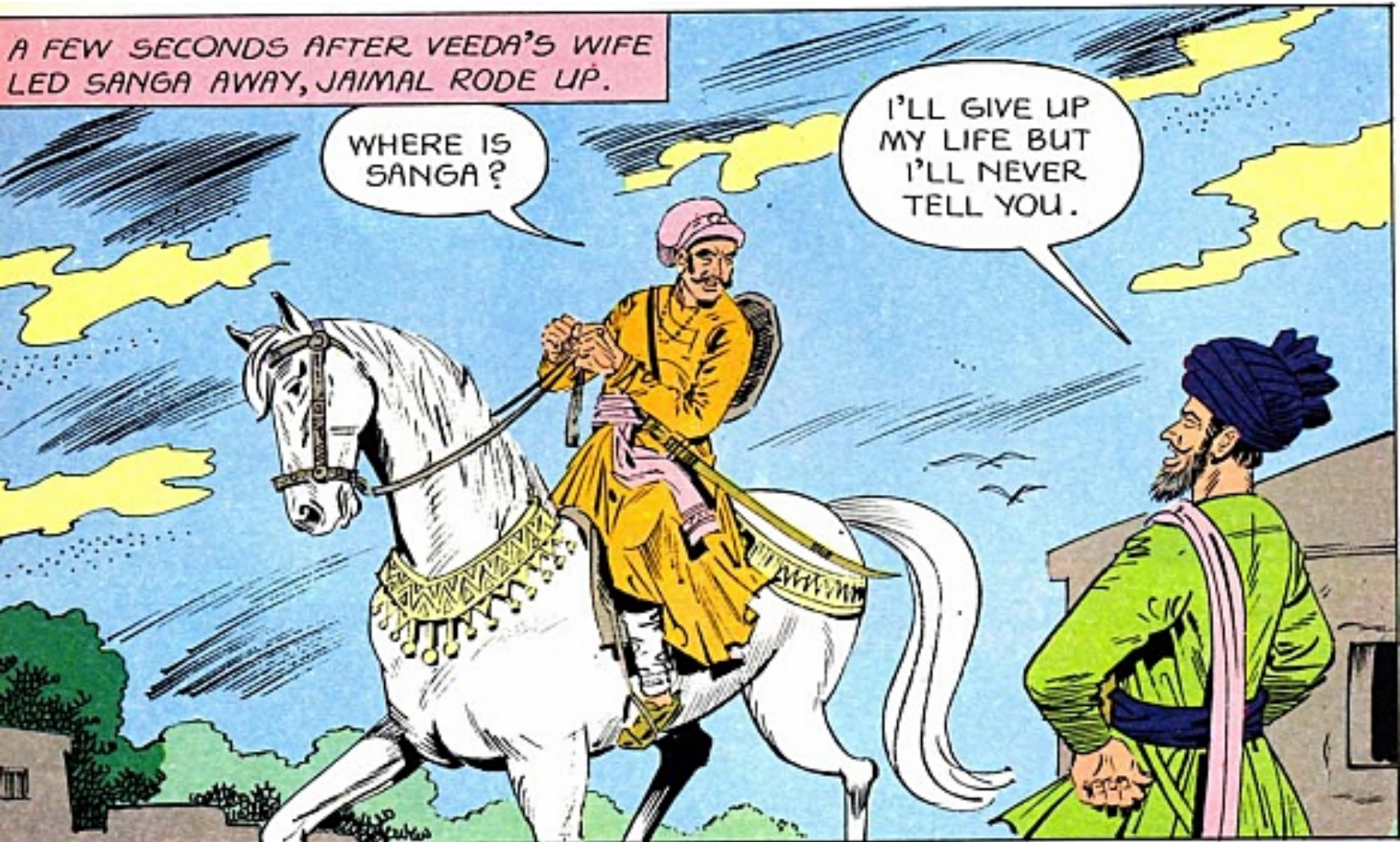


QUICK! LEAD HIM TO MY
HORSE, WHICH IS TIED
BEHIND THE HOUSE. I'LL
HANDLE JAIMAL.

A FEW SECONDS AFTER VEEDA'S WIFE
LED SANGA AWAY, JAIMAL RODE UP.

WHERE IS
SANGA?

I'LL GIVE UP
MY LIFE BUT
I'LL NEVER
TELL YOU.



ENRAGED, JAIMAL DREW HIS
SWORD AND ATTACKED VEEDA.

THIS SHOULD
GIVE PRINCE
SANGA ENOUGH
TIME TO GET
AWAY.



VEEDA STOPPED JAIMAL BUT
AT THE COST OF HIS LIFE.

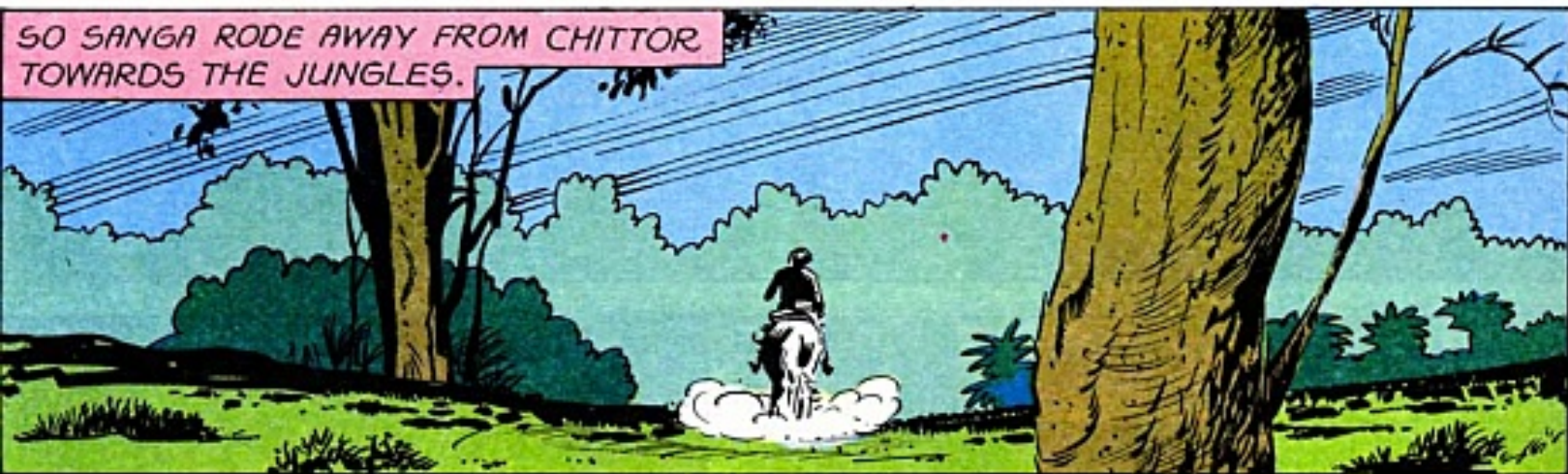


SANGA, MEANWHILE, ESCAPED
ON VEEDA'S HORSE.

I WILL NOT GO BACK.
PRITHVIRAJ IS DETERMINED
TO TAKE THE THRONE. OUR
WAR OVER THE SUCCESSION
WILL BENEFIT NONE
BUT THE ENEMIES
OF MEWAR.



SO SANGA RODE AWAY FROM CHITTOR
TOWARDS THE JUNGLES.



A FEW HOURS LATER,
SANGA SAW SOME
SHEPHERDS. HE
APPROACHED THEM
FOR WORK.

CAN YOU GRAZE OUR
GOATS AND SHEEP
AND COOK FOR US?

I WILL
TRY.



AS A MENIAL, SANGA, THE PRINCE, WAS A FAILURE.

HE IS A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING!

IT'S NO USE KEEPING HIM.

FROM HIS WOUNDS I WOULD SAY HE IS A RUN-AWAY BANDIT.

SANGA SOON BECAME SICK AND TIRED OF THEIR STEADY ABUSE.

I MUST FIND SOME OTHER EMPLOYMENT.

BUT NOTHING CAME HIS WAY.

A FEW DAYS LATER—

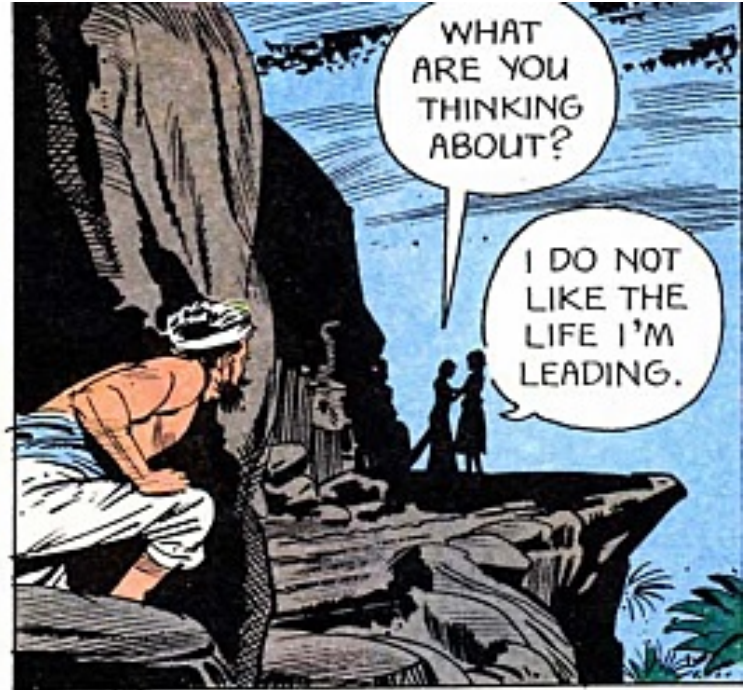
ARMED HORSEMEN! THEY SEEM TO BE REBEL RAJPUTS.

WHO ARE YOU?

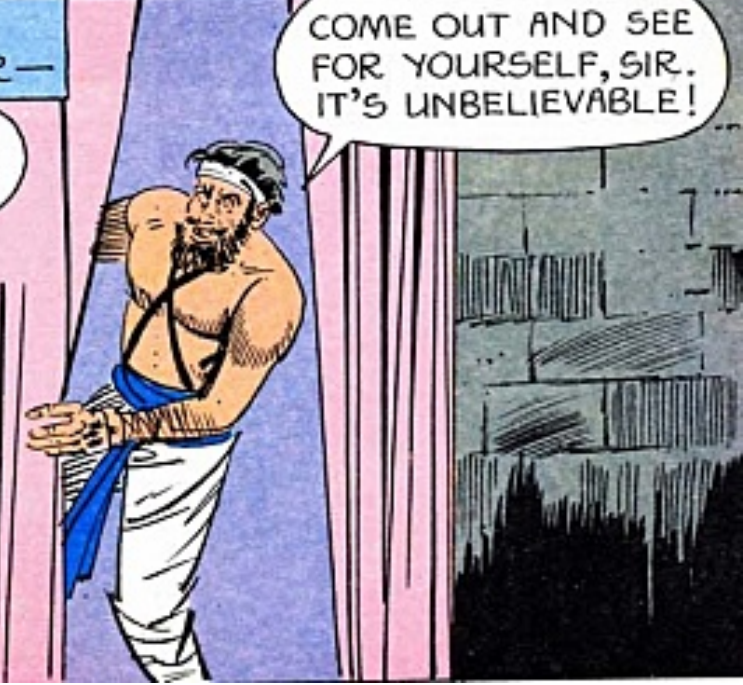
THEY HAVEN'T RECOGNISED ME. SHALL I ASK THEM TO GIVE ME SOME ARMS?



SANGA AND KARAM CHAND'S DAUGHTER SOON FELL IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER. ONE DAY—



KARAM CHAND ASKED MARU TO KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON SANGA. A FEW DAYS LATER—





THIS
MEANS THAT
SANGRAM IS
GOING TO
BE A KING.



DON'T
SPEAK OF
THIS TO
ANYONE.
NOT EVEN
TO SAN-
GRAM.



MY
DAUGHTER
COULD NOT
HAVE MADE
A BETTER
CHOICE.



THE NEXT DAY—

I'VE HEARD YOU
DON'T LIKE OUR
WAY OF LIFE.

YOUR DAUGHTER
DOES NOT LIKE
IT EITHER!



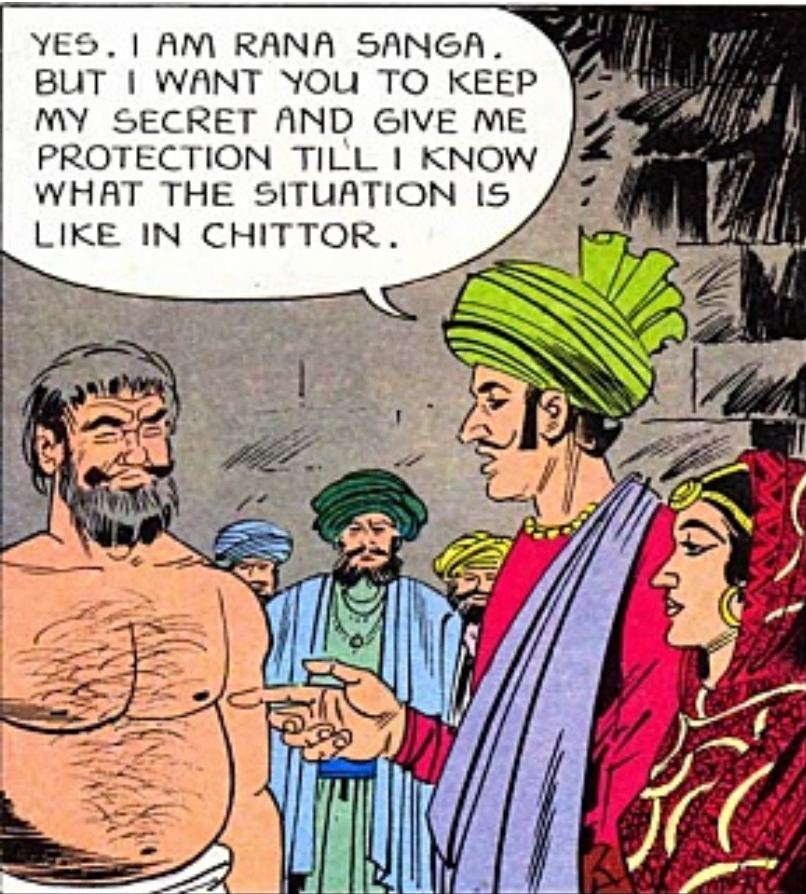
HOW DO
YOU KNOW?

SHE TOLD
ME.



AFTER THE WEDDING, SANGA AND HIS BRIDE APPROACHED KARAM CHAND FOR HIS BLESSINGS.





YES, I AM RANA SANGA.
BUT I WANT YOU TO KEEP
MY SECRET AND GIVE ME
PROTECTION TILL I KNOW
WHAT THE SITUATION IS
LIKE IN CHITTOR.



WE WILL SEND
SOMEONE TO
FIND OUT.

THE MESSENGER
RETURNED WITH
INTERESTING NEWS.
SANGA'S BAD DAYS
WERE OVER. PRITH-
VIRAJ AND JAIMAL
WERE NO MORE.



THE KING'S MEN
ARE LOOKING FOR
YOU EVERYWHERE.

GO TO
CHITTOR.
DON'T WASTE
ANOTHER
MOMENT.



MEANWHILE, AT
CHITTOR —

TWO SONS
KILLED, AND
SANGA NOT
YET TRACED.

WHO WILL SUCCEED
ME? WHAT WILL
BECOME OF MY
KINGDOM.

HAVE
PATIENCE,
SIR. OUR MEN
ARE LOOKING
EVERYWHERE
FOR...

AT THAT MOMENT—



MAHARAJ
KI JAI!
PRINCE
SANGA IS
HERE!

MY SON!
WHERE IS
MY SON?

WHERE
IS HE?

GOD HAS
GRANTED
OUR
PRAYERS!



SON, WHERE
WERE YOU
ALL THIS
TIME?

WHAT
DOES IT
MATTER?
HE IS
HERE NOW.

YES. I AM
HERE,
ALIVE
AND WELL!



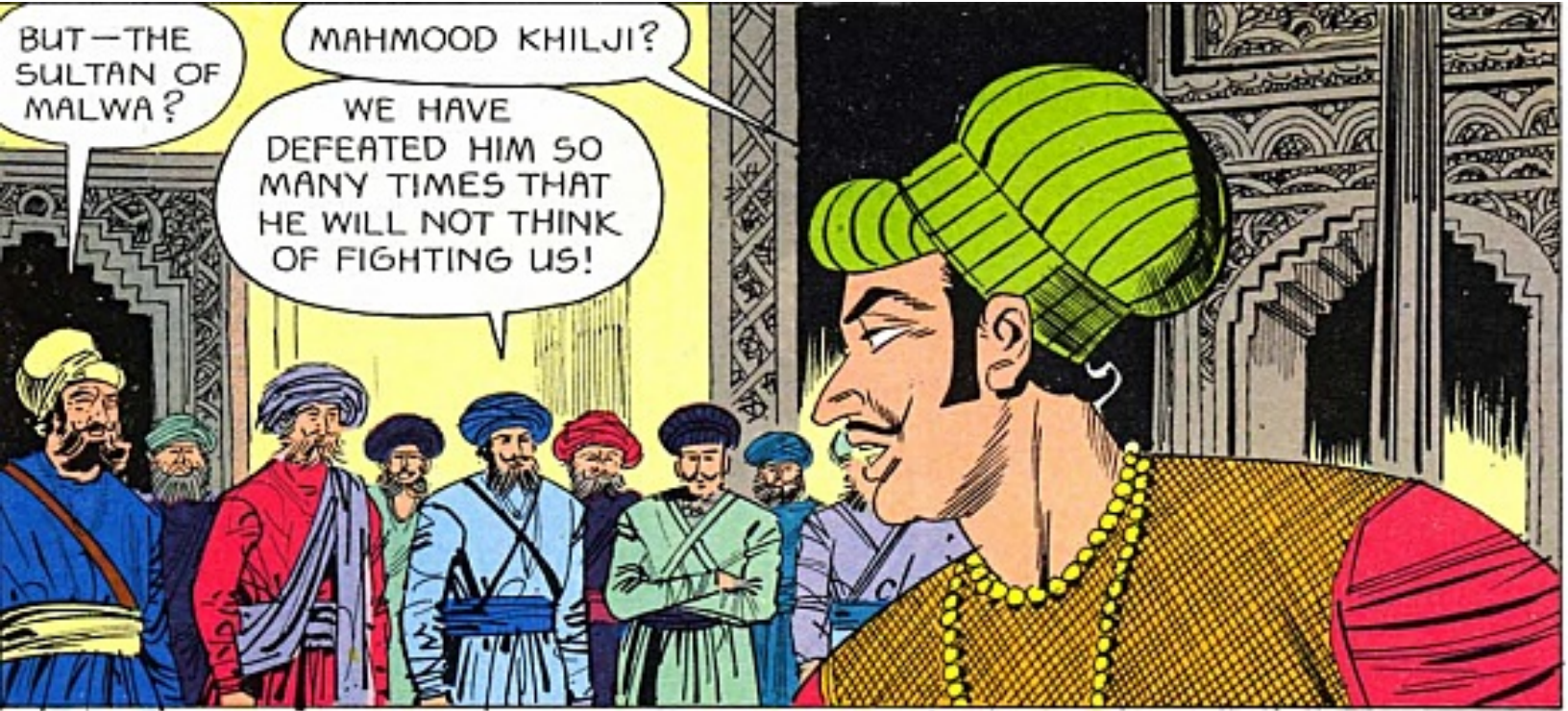
SOON AFTERWARDS, RAIMAL DIED AND SANGA BECAME KING. WITHIN A FEW YEARS, MEWAR REACHED THE SUMMIT OF PROSPERITY. ONE DAY AT COURT—

IBRAHIM
LODI'S POWER
IS ALREADY
ON THE
DECLINE.

WE CAN VANQUISH
THE SULTAN
WITHOUT MUCH
DIFFICULTY!

TO WIN
DELHI IS TO
RULE THE
WHOLE
COUNTRY!



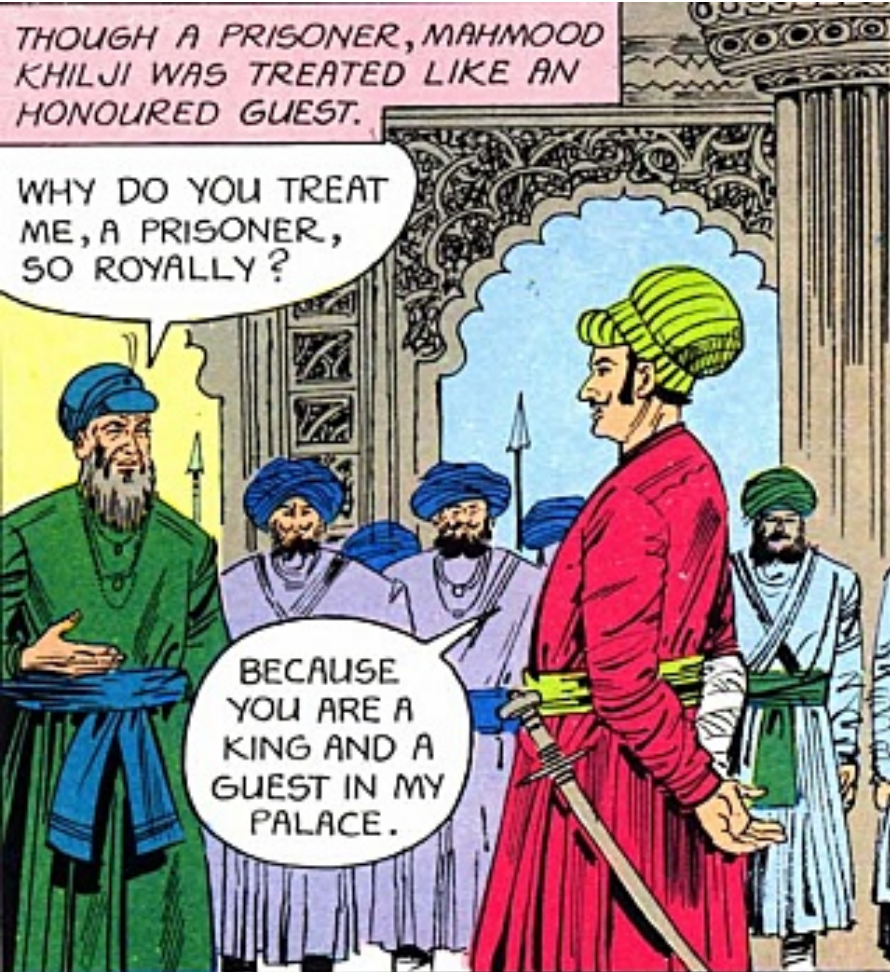




THOUGH A PRISONER, MAHMOOD KHILJI WAS TREATED LIKE AN HONoured GUEST.

WHY DO YOU TREAT ME, A PRISONER, SO ROYALLY?

BECAUSE YOU ARE A KING AND A GUEST IN MY PALACE.



I COULD EASILY ESCAPE.

THAT WOULD BE COWARDLY.



KHILJI HAD TO CEDE FOUR PROVINCES—BHILSA, SARANGPUR, CHANDERI AND RANTHAMBOR—BEFORE SANGA RELEASED HIM. MEANWHILE, BABAR HAD INVADDED DELHI.

BABAR IS JUST ANOTHER PLUNDERER!

IF HE DEFEATS LODI, HE WILL COLLECT ALL THE WEALTH HE CAN AND GO BACK!



AND IF HE STAYS ON, IT WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE TO US.

HIS NEW REGIME WILL NOT BE STRONG ENOUGH TO RESIST US.

WHETHER WE FIGHT LODI OR BABAR—IT IS ALL THE SAME TO US.





WE MUST
TAKE OVER
DELHI AT
ALL COSTS.

IN APRIL 1526, BABAR DEFEATED IBRAHIM LODI, BECAME THE NEW RULER OF DELHI AND IMMEDIATELY MADE PREPARATIONS FOR A WAR ON CHITTOR. SANGA HELD COUNCIL WITH HIS MINISTERS.

AMAZING! BABAR HAS COMPLETED HIS PREPARATIONS!

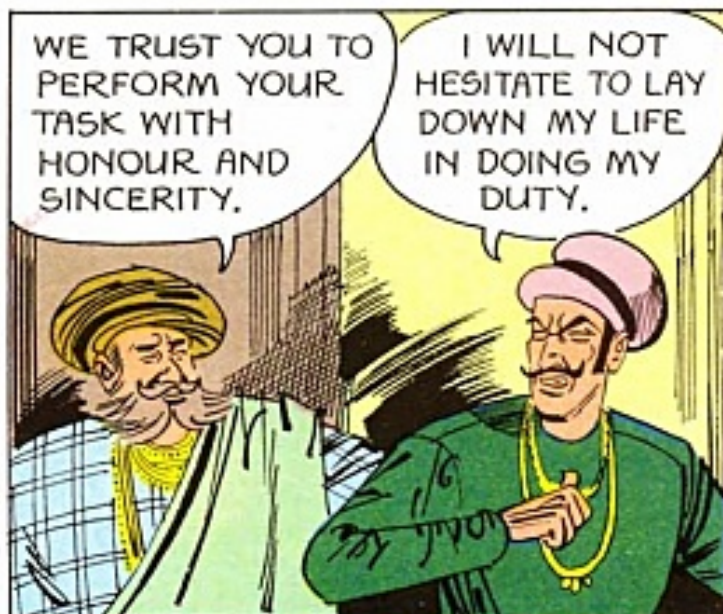
HE SEEMS TO BE AMBITIOUS.

ALL BRAVE MEN ARE AMBITIOUS. SHILADITYA, OUR FORCES HAVE TO BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED.



HE SHOULD BE DRIVEN OUT OF OUR MOTHER-LAND.

I LIKE YOUR SPIRIT, SHILADITYA. I PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF THE DEFENCE UNITS.



WE TRUST YOU TO PERFORM YOUR TASK WITH HONOUR AND SINCERITY.

I WILL NOT HESITATE TO LAY DOWN MY LIFE IN DOING MY DUTY.



MEANWHILE, AT BABAR'S COURT IN DELHI—

JAHANPANAH, WE WILL RUN A GREAT RISK IN FIGHTING RANA SANGA.

OUR SOLDIERS ARE OVERAWED BY THE VALOUR OF THE RAJPUTS.



LET US TEST
THE METTLE
OF THIS MAN
WHO HAS
ONLY ONE
EYE AND
ONE ARM.

IN MARCH 1527, BABAR ATTACKED. THE
FORCES OF RANA SANGA AND BABAR
MET IN THE BATTLEFIELD OF KHANWA.



BABAR'S ADVANCE OF ABOUT 1500
MEN WAS CUT TO PIECES.

REINFORCEMENTS WERE SENT
BUT THEY TOO MADE A HURRIED
RETREAT.

JAHANPANAH,
OUR SOLDIERS
HAVE ALREADY
LOST HEART.

I WILL
SPEAK TO
THEM.

BABAR ORDERED THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL WINE FLASKS.



THEN HE MADE A STIRRING SPEECH BEFORE HIS SOLDIERS.

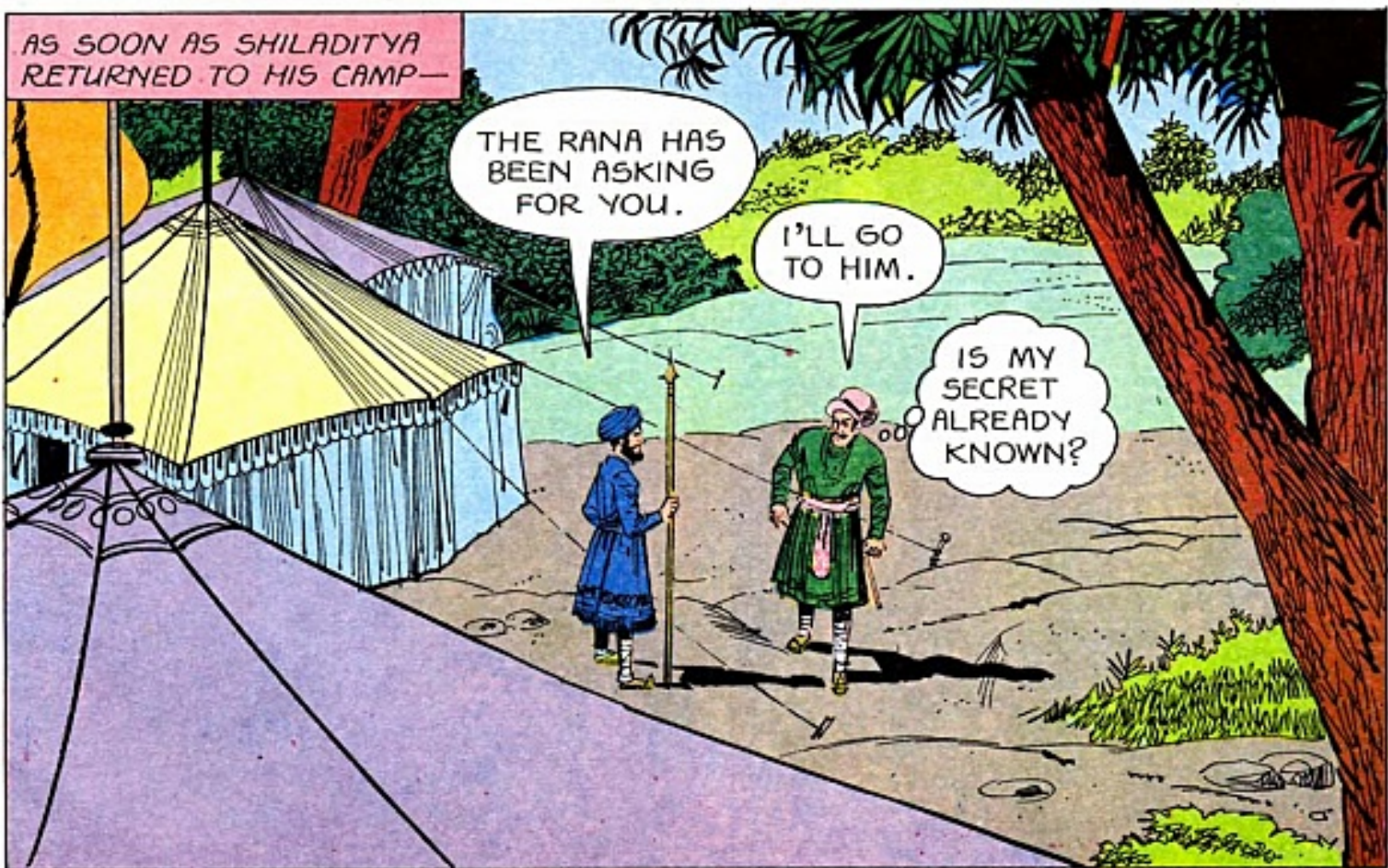


ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE BATTLE, HOWEVER, BABAR SENT HIS EMISSARY TO RANA SANGA.



BUT BABAR REJECTED THE TERMS. A LITTLE LATER—







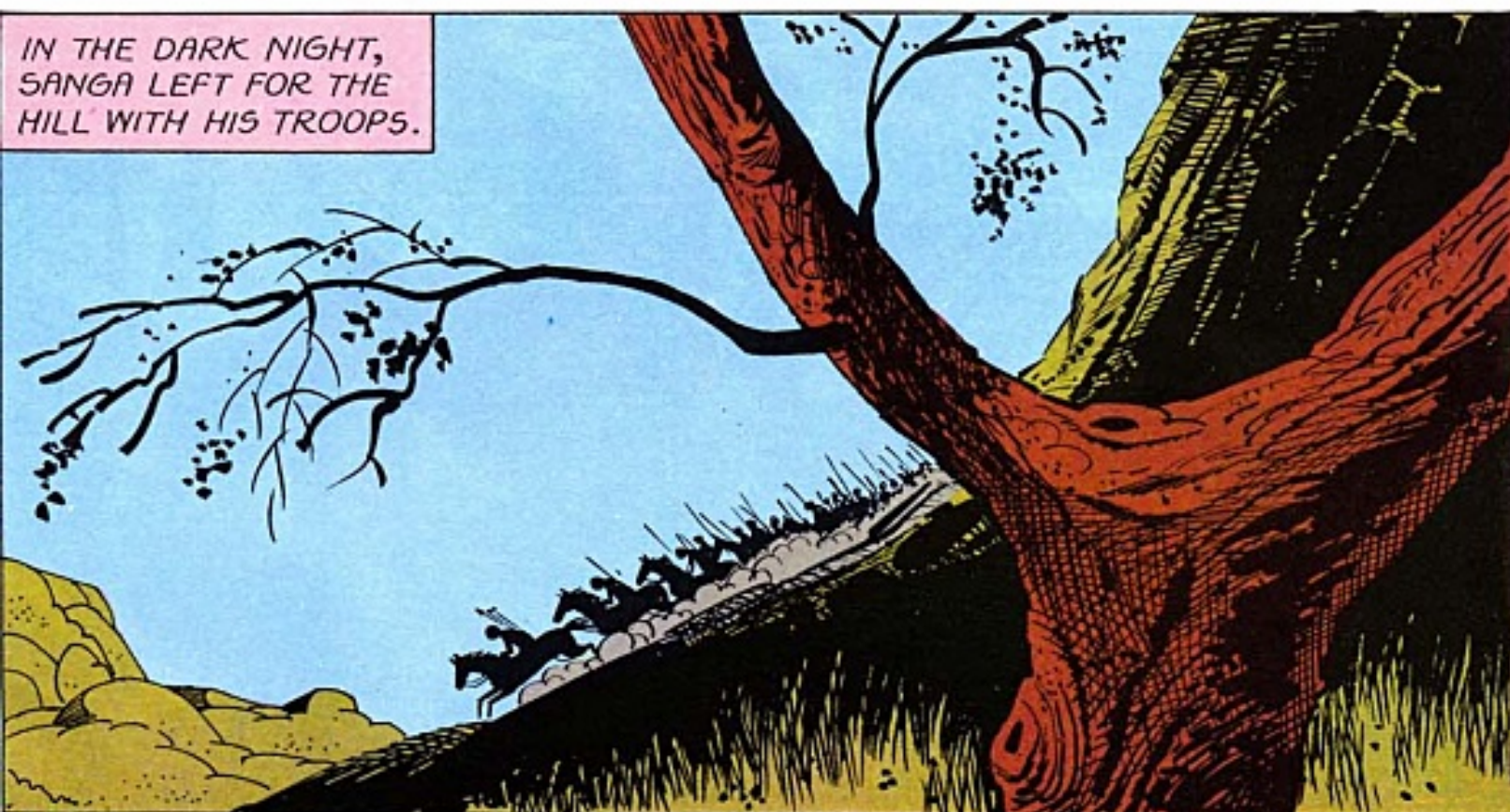
FOR THAT VERY
REASON YOU WILL
LEAD THE FRONTAL
ATTACK, SHILADITYA.
I WILL LEAD THE
REAR ATTACK.

I WILL ASTONISH
YOU WITH MY
PROWESS.

I HAVE
COMPLETE
FAITH IN
YOU.



IN THE DARK NIGHT,
SANGA LEFT FOR THE
HILL WITH HIS TROOPS.



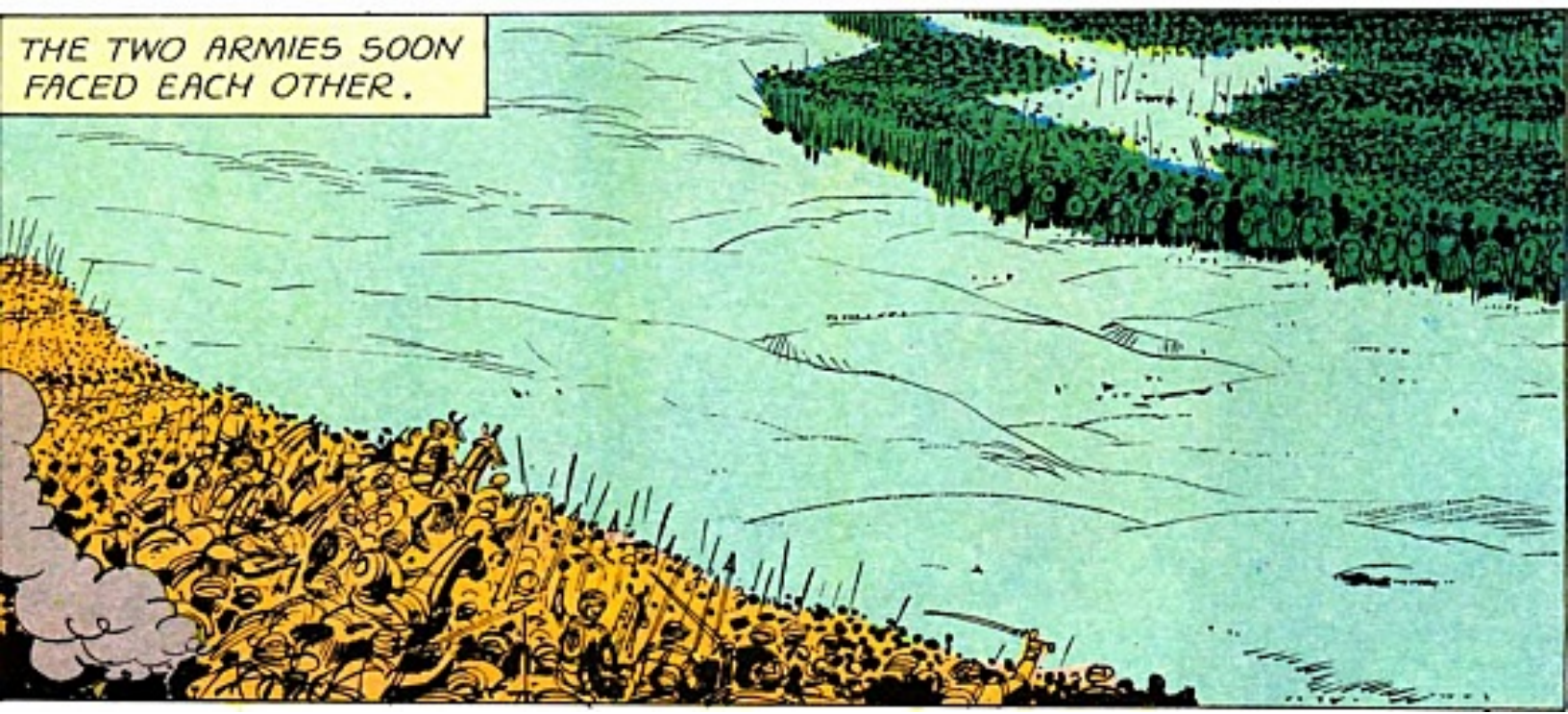


BOTH ARMIES
ARE GETTING
READY.

MOTHER CHANDI
IS MY WITNESS—
WE WILL WIN.



THIS WILL BE
THE DECISIVE
DAY.



THE TWO ARMIES SOON
FACED EACH OTHER.

SUDDENLY—

LOOK! LOOK!
INSTEAD OF FIGHTING,
THE TWO ARMIES ARE
MARCHING TOWARDS
CHITTOR TOGETHER.

WE HAVE BEEN
BETRAYED.
SHILADITYA,
I TRUSTED
YOU...

SINCE THE MAJOR PART
OF HIS ARMY HAD BEEN
GIVEN TO SHILADITYA,
RANA SANGA HAD TO
ABANDON HIS PLANS.

A REAR ATTACK
WOULD NOW BE
IN VAIN.

RANA SANGA AND HIS MEN
WANDERED INTO THE HILLS,
AWAITING AN OPPORTUNITY
TO ATTACK THE MUGHALS.

I VOW
NOT TO RETURN
TO MEWAR UNTIL
I'VE VANQUISHED
THE MUGHALS.

WE ARE
WITH YOU.

BUT THE UNCERTAINTY AND INSECURITY OF LIFE IN EXILE AFFECTED THE RANA'S HEALTH.



HE WAS CONFINED TO BED AND WAS UNABLE TO FULFIL HIS VOW.



A FEW MONTHS LATER, HE DIED AT VASVA, A VILLAGE IN THE HILLS.



IF SHILADITYA HAD NOT BETRAYED RANA SANGA, INDIA PERHAPS WOULD HAVE BEEN SAVED THE HUMILIATION OF FOREIGN DOMINATION.



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